

Library News | Fall 2021

From the Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library



Garden Tour 2021—The Tour that Almost Wasn't

The tour committee was uncertain about the reality of safety while navigating the decision to host a tour this year. The utmost concern was being assured the tour would not jeopardize our volunteers and the public. After careful consideration and discussion, the conclusion that being outdoors showing off exquisite gardens was just what the community needed. It proved to be a good call. Our gratitude to the garden owners and their willingness to be a part of the tour.

Included were, the Buss, Davis, Doyle, Garnett-Deakin and Hansen/Roberts gardens. Featured were four “Points of Interest”, which are public spaces

where no ticket was needed. Those were The Hahn Horticulture Garden, the Alexander Black House and Cultural Center, the Blacksburg Farmers Market and Art Space (Blacksburg Regional Art Association gallery).

[continued on page 2]

In this issue:

General News.....	1-6
Branch Updates.....	4-5

General News

[continued from page 1] A few stats:

- Five gardens
- Over 30 Friends of the Library volunteers
- Over 15 Master Gardeners
- 5 artists
- 10 musicians
- 7 business and private sponsors: Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club, Bonomo's, Capones Fine Jewelers, Carolyn and Don Rude, Crow's Nest Greenhouses, Old New River Books and Shelter Alternatives. Vintage Cellar at the after-tour gratitude party on Sunday along with numerous local restaurants that donated food trays.
- Record Number of Tickets (some patrons rounded up on their ticket purchase of \$15, so the exact number is unknown.
- 15 NRV Garden Tour Committee members

- A total of \$8,718.08. 5% donated to the NRV Master Gardeners for their contribution = \$435.90
- A total of \$8,282.18 for the library's special adult and children's programs. A NRV Garden Tour record!

A special thanks to Elissa and Harry Steeves for opening their spectacular garden for our Sunday gratitude party, and to all that supported the 2021 tour!

Gratitude to the staff of the Blacksburg Library as they printed extra tickets during the tour.

The tour committee welcomes FOL members that may be interested in being involved in coordinating future tours. Contact Lynn Brammer lbrammer@vt.edu or Ellen Hall efdhall@gmail.com.

Tour date for 2022, Saturday July 9!

Lynn Brammer (Garden Tour Committee)

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK | Here at Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library, we are ready to wave bye-bye to the COVID-19 emergency—but I suppose we will have to wait until the emergency is actually leaving. We were just about to go “100% normal” operations in September and bring back in person programming for preschoolers, the most important branch activity that is still suspended, when the delta wave built up. We are now watching the Virginia Department of Health's COVID-19 Dashboard to see when the Level of Community Transmission map shows Montgomery and Floyd as being out of the “red zone” for high transmission. I predict that by the next Friends of the Library newsletter, we will be at the New Normal stage of reopening, with kids' storytimes back live. Of course, I often predict sunshine on cloudy days, so I suppose we will all see together.

Meanwhile we have an exciting fall planned with programs, new resources from the state library, and the best publishers have to offer in books, DVD's and more. I want to share a few new resources with you that will really have an impact:

HelpNow: HelpNow is an online homework help platform that includes live online tutoring. The team at

HelpNow will assist students in grades K-college with specific homework questions, improving their writing, and practicing new language skills. HelpNow is available 7 days a week, from 2 pm until 11. HelpNow's sister products, JobNow and VetNow are also worth exploring. JobNow features a resume builder, career resources, and live help; and VetNow helps veterans and their families apply for programs specific to veterans, with live help. Live help is their thing! To access, go to the library homepage at mfrl.org and follow the link to the Elibrary.

FindIt Virginia Magazines: How would you like online access to over 1000 magazines, with full color, no paywalls, and updates every day? FindIt Virginia Magazines provides this through the Libby and Overdrive maps. With so many magazines hiding their content behind paywalls, this is a good way to save some money and to see the best of feature, lifestyle and journalistic writing. Plus, dozens of magazines in world languages and more for kids and teens. There is one trick to see these; you must add the Library of Virginia as a second library to your Libby app (or Overdrive app).

[continued on page 3]

If you haven't renewed your *Individual or Family Membership* with the Friends group, please do so here:

<http://www.mfrlfriends.org/wp/become-a-friend-renew/>

General News Cont'd

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK CONT'D |

[continued from page 2] Just go to the home page of the app and follow the add library dialog—your library card number may be needed. FindItVirginia Magazines is best accessed through Libby App.

Just for Kids Library: It's the new JFK – Just for Kids Library. Videos from some of the most beloved children's education and entertainment series have a new home on JFK Library. Sesame Street, The Berenstain Bears, Franklin, Arthur, Sonic, Reading Rainbow and

more are here for free anytime you wish. JFK Library also has hundreds of educational videos to feed children's curiosity and to build skills at grade level. To access, go to the library homepage at mfri.org and follow the link to the Elibrary.

On behalf of the library staff, I want to thank the Friends of the Library for their ongoing support. Have a great Fall!

Karim Khan (Library Director)

Senior Connections | In 2020 the library started a program called Senior Connections as a way to reach out to seniors during the Covid pandemic. We began by making craft kits and activities packets available to folks receiving Meals on Wheels. Our program has continued by providing packets to area senior facilities using the MFRL courier to deliver packets to Warm Hearth, Noble Senior Living, English Meadows, Commonwealth Senior Living, Skyline Nursing and Rehabilitation as well as continuing to serve Agency on Aging. Over 400 seniors are provided with puzzles, word searches, trivia, craft materials, and pre-stamped postcards for writing to family each month.

In 2021 we used Cares Act funds to provide materials for the program, and for 2022 we are asking our Friends of the Library to help fund Senior Connections. Friends

of the Library funds most of our library programs including the Summer Reading Program for children, teens and adults. We are grateful for their support.

Below are some comments from a recent survey we sent along with our packets:

"My favorite is the word search."

"I really like writing cards to my grandchildren."

"Send me some pictures to color. I am a person who likes to color pictures I hang up in my trailer and to show people."

"The packets help me not be so nervous. Helps me settle down"

"I like making the refrigerator magnets."

"My favorite activity was the Christmas craft."

Linda Spivey (Library Outreach & PR Coordinator)



Branch Updates

CHRISTIANSBURG | While the COVID-19 emergency continues to be challenging in many respects, this summer was full of outstanding partnerships and outreach into the community! Our Summer Reading Program was very successful this year, with over 200 children signing up at the Christiansburg Library.

While we had fewer in-person programs, we were able to expand outreach into the community this summer with the new mobile library. In addition to regular stops, we took the mobile library to Touch-a-Truck, Heritage Day, Christiansburg Farmers' Market, Kiwanis Wilderness Trail Festival, and the Fall Festival at the Uptown Mall. In total, we saw over 1,000 people, handed out close to 500 take home craft activities, and signed dozens of peo-

ple up for library cards. We ended summer with a bagged book sale benefiting the Friends of the Library.

Looking towards the fall, we have partnered with the Town of Christiansburg Parks and Rec to provide a limited Wellness Book Club that will run through November and we will be taking the mobile library to various Halloween events, including a parade through Linden Green and Getting Scary on the Huckleberry.

As we head into fall we are looking forward to continuing our partnerships and supporting to our community in these unprecedented times. We appreciate your continued support!

Salena Sullivan (Branch Supervisor)

FLOYD | Floyd Friends of the Library held two book sales recently, one in June and one in early October. Both events were enjoyed by the public and raised \$889 total! This money will help purchase supplies for programming at the library.

These past few months have seen a lot of our community partners here at the library. The Red Cross held their regular blood drive in September. The DMV was here for three days in September providing their much needed services. The Floyd County Health Department was here for a flu vaccine clinic in October and visits monthly to provide blood pressure checks and screenings. We've also been out in the community letting people know about library services. We've been to the Floyd Farmers Market, The Hispanic Heritage Month event at Lineberry Park, Floyd Livestock and County Fair, and other places in the community.

Our monthly book club, Talking About Books, meets the second Thursday of the month at 2:00 pm. Some of our upcoming titles for discussion are: *The Exiles* by Christina Baker Kline, *Varina* by Charles Frazier, *Inside Passage* by Keema Waterfield, *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris, and *The Moon is Low* by Nadia Hashimi.

Ongoing Programs at the Library

Family Art Take & Makes – Each month kids can take home craft kit, learn about an artist, and explore their artistic nature with a craft themed after the monthly artist's style.

Take & Make Crafts – Each week we'll have a new craft activity for kids to take home and make.

Rambling Readers – Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 11:00 am. Come for a walk and talk about what you're reading. This is a casual book club that incorporates a little physical activity. During the course of a roughly 2 mile walk, we'll talk about books we're enjoying.

Floyd Moves It! – It's time to get moving! Join us as we get active with an American Heart Association walking workout. Space is limited to 15 participants and we ask that you wear a mask. This low impact aerobic workout is suitable for all levels of activity. Every Monday and Thursday at 11:00 am.

The DMV will be at the library on November 8, 9, and 10 from 10:00-4:00 each day. They will be providing most of their regular services. By appointment only.

[continued on page 6]

Branch Updates Cont'd

FLOYD CONT'D | Creative Writing Group – Monday, November 29th at 5:30 pm. This group is open to creative, adult writers of all types: fiction, nonfiction, poetry, hybrid work. All are welcome. This meeting will center around orientation, craft talk, a prompt, building

writer's resources, and hopefully coming up with a name for our group! If you have questions, please contact: angeladribben@gmail.com.

Joann Verostko (Branch Supervisor)

MEADOWBROOK | Can you make it through our Sidewalk Halloween-themed obstacle course? If you dare... If so the course will be available the whole month of October in the Meadowbrook Library Courtyard. Don't forget to count the candy corn throughout the course to win a prize! It is perfect for all ages and abilities. Those that complete the course can enter for a special prize drawing that will get you ready for Halloween.

Help the Veterans with Your Donations. All during the month of November at the Meadowbrook Public Li-

brary, Blacksburg Library, Christiansburg Library, and Jessie Peterman Memorial Library.

MFRL is a collection point for items needed at the VA Medical Center in Salem. Bring your donations of the following items to the library during November: deodorant, denture adhesive, 3-in-1 body wash/shampoo/conditioner, body lotion, toothpaste, nail clippers, sweatpants, sweatshirts, t-shirts (size M, L, XL) , and new baseball caps.

Cindy Minnick (Branch Supervisor)



Branch Updates

FRIENDS UPDATE | Many Thanks to the following members for their exceptional generosity

Friends of the Library are deeply appreciative of the following members for their additional cash gifts above and beyond membership dues for 2021.

\$10 - \$49

Jonathan Allen
 Paula and Tom Alston
 Susan Caceci
 Ida Comparin
 Pauletta Copenheaver
 Jo and Bud Brown
 Don Creamer
 Mary Sue Dohoney
 Shelby Evans
 Kim Feucht
 Beverly Fleming
 Linda Greaver
 Marcy Guenette
 Elaine Harkinson
 Virginia Jedda
 Margaret Laing
 Karen Martin
 Charles Maus
 Ross Mecham, Jr.
 Fred Mignone
 Patricia Monroe
 Franklyn and Bonnie Moreno
 Irene Peterson and Molly McClintock
 Cecelia Powell
 Mark Sanders
 Andrew Schenker
 Catherine Snyder
 Monica Weinzapfel
 Herbert Williams
 Mary Jane Zody

\$50 – \$99

Susan Anderson
 Cynthia Chappelka
 Christiansburg Book Club
 Sam and Ruthann Hicks
 Bill and Dottie McKinnon
 Marjorie Modlin
 Patricia Polentz
 Laura and Chia Tze

\$100 - \$199

Janice Litschert
 Ed, Missy and Hollis Oakes
 Patricia Roszak
 Judy Watson

\$200 - \$499

AAUW Literature Group
 Board of Trustees Montgomery Floyd Regional Library
 David Dillard
 Marilyn Spencer

\$500 and over

Patricia and Michael Marcolini

\$1,000 - \$1,999

Don and Carolyn Rude
 The Van Tyne Family
 \$2,000 and over
 David and Elaine Harkinson
 Karim Kahn

Ellen Hall (President, Montgomery County Friends)

Thank You

Sponsorships | Friends of the Library are deeply appreciative of the following businesses and individuals for their significant support of library programs and events. Each has contributed \$200 or more as named sponsors of the Summer Reading Program or the Garden Tour.:

Don and Caroline Rude



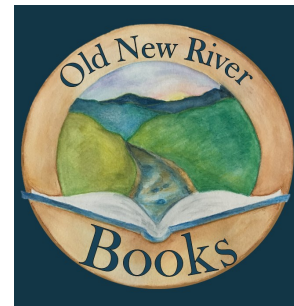
Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club

With the simple motto of " We Serve "

**CAPONE'S
JEWELRY**



McMILLION & McMILLION, PC
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT



Crow's Nest Greenhouses



National Bankshares



Rainbow Riders
childcare center