

# Library News | Fall 2020

*From the Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library*



## Friends Update

Dear Friends,

Your generosity and loyalty to the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library this year has meant so very much to the Library administration, staff and the Friends Board.

- From January to mid-August you contributed over **\$5,100** in membership dues and donations, only a few hundred dollars less than last year at the same time.
- Of the above amount, four sponsors of the Summer Reading Program (Collison Plus, McMillion and McMillion CPA, National Bankshares, and Rainbow Riders) donated \$800. While the libraries

were not able to offer an in-person experience this year, the donations were used to purchase the software to deliver the program online over the summer.

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# Calendar

September Tuesday	October Thursday	October Tuesday	November Tuesday	November Thursday
22	8	13	3	12
National Voter Registration Day   All Branches	Book Club   Jessie -Peterman 2-3pm	Deadline to regis- ter to vote for No- vember election	Voting Day	Book Club   Jessie -Peterman 2-3pm

## General News Cont'd

**FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK** | In 2020, things come at you fast and sometimes it's hard to take a step back and look at the big picture. Fortunately for Montgomery-Floyd Regional, the Board and management do have a new-five year plan to help us keep our eyes on the future. The staff and I are putting together this year's objectives, including exciting new projects like "Library Card for Every Schoolchild," expanding outreach into geographically remote parts of the counties, enhancing our outdoor spaces, and building our video content through the website. We are also looking at ways to make up for what COVID has stopped us from doing, especially with seniors, persons with disabilities, and children.



I am happy to report that MFRL and Montgomery County have received a 2020 Virginia Association of Counties (VaCo) Achievement Award for the **Meadowbrook Public Library Summer Backpack Program**. Working with various community groups, the Meadowbrook Library was able to offer a supplemental food program, not only once, but twice a week during the summer. During the eight-week program, 121 children were served, and 724 bags of food were distributed. I am so proud of the work of the Meadowbrook Library staff in summer 2019 that made this program possible—Branch Manager Cindy Minnick, Assistant Branch Manager Janet Wren, and Circulation Specialists Bazette Cooper, Denise Lane, Jennifer Morrow, Ed Sears, Char-

lotte Selbo and Sarah Van Zele. This team has maintained the Backpack Program in summer 2020 using curbside pickup! The team has enjoyed support from stalwart volunteer Ruth Heinzelmann and Virginia Extension Agent Angie Helm. MFRL is one of only two library systems in Virginia to be recognized with a VaCo Achievement Award this year.

COVID has changed many things about how we can make our mission a reality for the people we serve, but this year really provides a great illustration of the day-to-day dedication that staff shows. Whether it is the reinvention of processes that makes curbside service, the innovation that created our simple online card registration, or the trust needed to keep going when changes happen so quickly, staff have been absolutely heroic throughout the crisis. Not that I ever doubted them, but my admiration for everyone who works here increases every day.

Finally, the CARES Act is a federal relief program that has made funding available to local governments to address problems created by the COVID emergency. Working with our local government partners we have planned some spending of CARES Act funding. There will be infrastructure costs to upgrade HVAC systems, as well as PPE purchases, but this funding will also give us a chance to fund projects that address not just the infectious nature of COVID, but also the gaps in service that social distancing created. So, by December 30, the deadline for CARES Act expenditures, we hope to have a number of exciting, impactful and long-term improvements on the way. Keep an eye on the library's homepage and your next Friends newsletter!

*By Karim Khan (Library Director)*

## General News Cont'd

### President's Update Cont'd |

- Seven Garden Tour sponsors (Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club, Bonomo's, Brown Insurance, Capone's Jewelry, Crow's Nest Greenhouses, Old New River Books, and Shelter Alternatives) committed to cover the costs of this year's tour. Unfortunately we were not able to hold it because of the pandemic. The donations that have come in will be forwarded to next year's celebration. It will be our 25th Anniversary Garden Tour!
- Some of our volunteers work with the book sales at the four branches. Because of our limited schedule

this year and lack of events such as our highly successful book sales, we have made **\$3,800** instead of the \$11,000+ by this time last year.

At the end of the year the Friends will write out a check to MFRL Director, Karim Kahn, including all of your gifts, donations and proceeds from book sales. In these times especially every dollar counts and is appreciated. Thank you all so very much. How wonderful it is to have friends that stick by the library through thick and thin. You're the best!

*By Ellen Hall (President, Montgomery County Friends)*

## Branch Updates

### FLOYD | Hello Friends!

Things are a little different here at Jessie Peterman Memorial Library but our staff is working hard. We're striving to do what we can to make patrons welcome and to continue to provide the best service we can under the current circumstances.

We're continuing curbside service but welcoming patrons into the library as well. Circulation staff provide a weekly take and make craft for kids. Past popular crafts have been clothes-pin sharks, a paper plate butterfly feeder, and a popsicle stick tent. Our Park to Library Trail Scavenger hunt has also been very popular with kids.

The Floyd County Health Department has resumed their second Wednesday of the month Blood Pressure and Wellness checks. We're glad to have them back!

Our Talking About Books book club has started it's 2020-2021 season. Some upcoming titles we'll be reading are: *The Rules of Magic* by Alice Hoffman, *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd, and *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. Join us on the second Thursday of each month from 2:00-3:00 PM to talk about some great books.

Some upcoming programs:

- National Voter Registrations Day on September 22. All day volunteers will be at the library to help people with their voter registration needs.
- American Red Cross Blood Drive October 14 from 1:00-6:00 PM. Donate and save a life!

Thanks to our Friends for all of their amazing support.

*By Joann Verostko (Branch Supervisor)*





## Branch Updates

**CHRISTIANSBURG** | While the COVID-19 emergency has been challenging in many respects, it has provided us with new opportunities and partnerships. We were forced to scale back our in-person programming and outreach into the community this summer; however, we were able to donate over 400 books to Community Housing Partners and the Ruritans to distribute to children and families who may have had limited access to books and materials while schools were closed to the public. We have been able to provide several virtual programs to our patrons, including Art Club with take home

activity kits and a virtual, family activity-based Summer Reading Program. We have also transitioned most of our book clubs to a virtual meeting space with much success.

As Fall approaches we are looking forward to expanding our virtual programming and continuing to support our community in these unprecedented times.

We appreciate your continued support!

*By Salena Sullivan (Branch Supervisor)*

## General News Cont'd

**Donors** | 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 2020.

**\$5 - \$49** Paula Alston, Susan Anderson, Frances Church, Gene Cielinski, Ida Comparin, Don Creamer, William Daley, Jr, Piper Durrell, Shelby Evans, Thomas Gilmer, Linda Greaver, Ann Groves, Marcy Guenette, Virginia Jedda

Alma Jones, Erma Jones, Gunin Kiran, Noreen Klein, Charles and Nancy Maus, Rebecca Mays, Elizabeth



Obenshain, Patricia Polentz, Cecelia Powell, Andrew Schenker, Edie Schumacher, Joan Shorter, Nini Smiley, Herbert Williams, Mary Jane Zody

**\$50 – \$99** Marilyn Bowman, Ginger Dakin, Beverly Fleming, Richard Gilbert, Sam and Ruthann Hicks, Mary and Chuck Houska, Lucinda Jennings, Janice Litschert, Marjorie Modlin, Terry and Margaret Pletcher, Rebecca Riley, Jim Schlaudecker, Ann-Margaret Shortt, Judy Watson

**\$100 and over** Elizabeth Calvera, Cynthia Chappelka, Lori Tolliver-Jones and David Jones, Ed, Missy and Hollis Oakes, Christopher and Susan Tuck on behalf of Louise Penny, Don and Carolyn Rude, Cynthia Saunders, The Van Tyne Family

**\$200 and over** Peter Jonas and Kathleen Anderson, Barbara and Michael Williams

**\$500 and over** David and Elaine Harkinson, Kathy Krendle, Spencer Winfrey

*By Ellen Hall (President, Montgomery County Friends)*

## General News Cont'd

**How to Vote in 2020** | This year's Nov. 3rd presidential election has energized voters but also worried them about how to vote safely and ensure that their vote is counted. What you need to know:

**Are you registered to vote?** You can register or check your registration status easily by going to [vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation](https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation). You can also register in person by going to your local Voter Registration Office. The Montgomery County Voter Registration Office is in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg. In Radford, the Registrar's Office is at 619 2nd Street. In Floyd, the office is in the County Courthouse, 100 E. Main St., #302. **Do it now!** The deadline to register is **Tuesday, Oct. 13th**, to vote.

### Three Ways to Vote This Fall

**1. Early Voting:** For the first time, you can vote in person starting 45 days before the election between Sept. 18th and October 31st. In Montgomery County, you can vote early at one of two satellite voting sites: one at Uptown Christiansburg [formerly New River Valley Mall] in the Wonder Universe Children's Museum or at the Montgomery County Government Center Multipurpose Room 1 at 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg. Both sites will be open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturdays, Oct. 24th and 31st. In Floyd County, early voting is at the General Registrar's Office from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Radford from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

You will need to show proof of identity, but a photo ID is no longer required for voting. A student ID or a variety of documents such as a current utility bill or bank

statement with your name and address will suffice for a voter ID. Curbside voting will be available for handicapped or high-risk voters.

**2. Vote by Mail:** If you have concerns about your health, you can vote safely from home by mail. **Apply now** for your ballot to vote by mail at [vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation](https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation) or from your Voter Registration Office. Ballots will be mailed out starting Sept. 18. Voters this year will NOT need a witness to sign their absentee ballot thanks to a League of Women Voters' lawsuit. You can check online to see that your ballot has been mailed to you and then that it has been successfully returned to the registrar. Voters no longer need a state-approved reason for an absentee ballot. **Deadline to request an absentee ballot is 5 p.m. Friday, October 23. Mail your ballot early!** You can also hand deliver your ballot to the registrar or to a satellite site.

**3. Voting on Election Day:** As always, you can vote on Election Day, Nov 3rd, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. at your local precinct. You no longer need a photo ID for voting in Virginia. A student ID or a variety of documents such as a current utility bill or bank statement with your name and address will suffice for an ID. Handicapped access and curbside voting are available at the polls.

For information on election guidelines, go to [elections.virginia.gov](https://elections.virginia.gov). Masks are encouraged.

Go to **Vote411** for candidate information. **VOTE!** It is your power and your right.

*By Elizabeth Obenshain (League of Women Voters)*



# 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 in 2020. Each has contributed \$200 or more as named sponsors of the Summer Reading Program or the Garden Tour.



## Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club

With the simple motto of "We Serve"

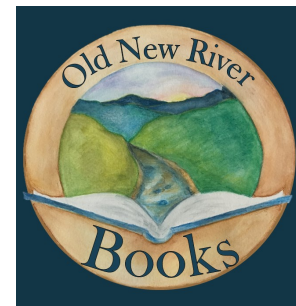


*Brown Insurance*

CAPONE'S  
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**McMILLION & McMILLION, PC**  
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Crow's Nest Greenhouses



National Bankshares



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