

Library News | Winter 2021

From the Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library



Friends Update

Dear Friends,

Despite the incredible challenges we faced in 2020, we are hopeful that 2021 will bring us back together again, in person, and in the library. The library staff have all received their first COVID-19 vaccinations and many members of the Friends are now receiving theirs as well.

With the cancellation of the 2020 Garden Tour and the elimination of our large indoor book sales since March, we have lost our two major sources of fundraising. Nevertheless, because of your membership dues and generous personal contributions the Montgomery

Friends of the Library were able to contribute \$11,000 to the library system. You are providing the critical funds that make program delivery a reality.

During 2020:

- You contributed over \$6,600 in membership dues and donations.

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Calendar

February Saturday	February Thursday	February Friday	March Saturday	Monthly 2nd & 4th Tuesday	Monthly 2nd Thursday
6	23	27	26		
Creative Writing Group Virtual Meeting Meadowbrook/online, 11am-12:30pm	Virtual Cooking with Your Insta Pot Meadowbrook/online, 5:30pm	Outdoor Book Sale Blacksburg 10am—weather permitting	Outdoor Book Sale Blacksburg 10am—weather permitting	Ramblin' Readers walk & read club, every 2nd & 4th Tuesday Jessie Peter-	Talking About Book club Jessie Peterman/online, 2nd Thursday, 2-3pm

General News

- [continued from page 1]* Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club, Bonomo's, and Crow's Nest Greenhouses, Old New River Books, Shelter Alternatives and Don and Carolyn Rude contributed \$1,100 to the 2020 Garden Tour before we knew it would have to be postponed. These funds will be rolled over to the next Garden Tour.
 - Some of our volunteers are continuing to work with books donated at the four branches. They made over \$6,200 in sales in 2020, mostly in the early months. They are beginning to hold outdoor sales in 2021.
 - Sponsors of the Summer Reading Program for children (Collision Plus, McMillion and McMillion CPA, National Bankshares and Rainbow Riders) paid the costs of software to deliver programming virtually, attracting an attendance of 534 very delighted children and teens.
 - The library staff provided a continuous array of additional educational events for adults and children throughout the summer. Your contributions paid for the software to deliver programs virtually.
 - You paid for the January 2020 print issue of the Newsletter with a circulation of over 300 households and businesses. Newsletters have been distributed electronically since the outbreak of Covid-19.
 - You subsidized the cost of providing coffee for patrons during the months we were open in 2020.
- Wishing all of you the best of health and the best of reading in 2021!
- Ellen Hall (President, Montgomery County Friends)*

MFRL is Reaching Out to Senior Citizens with Senior Connections | With our visits to senior living facilities curtailed during the COVID pandemic library staff had to find new ways to serve the needs of our senior population. We have partnered with NRV Area Agency on Aging and other senior facilities in Montgomery and Floyd Counties to create the Senior Connection program. Our program utilizes Meals on Wheels to deliver over 150 packets and our library courier delivers over 200 packets to other local senior facilities. The packets contain a craft kit, activities, and useful library information such as how to get books by mail. We hope to have brightened the holidays for seniors that were not

able to travel this year. We are getting a favorable response and the program will continue for 2021.

Linda Spivey (Library Outreach & PR Coordinator)



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 | The CARES Act Funds More Than Masks. Less than a year ago, we first heard of the virus that has caused the COVID-19 pandemic. By now there has been so much loss, and so many things deferred, that it is sometimes a challenge to recall what we were planning on doing in 2021 before the pandemic. For Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library, we have tried to adapt and innovate so that we can help our patrons get through this time, and grow while doing so. Some objectives have been met, some have been changed, and there are some that will wait until another year.

The federal CARES Act in part provided grant funding for local governments to undertake projects that could remediate the effects of the pandemic. With assistance from staff from Montgomery and Floyd Counties, MFRL has applied funding available through the CARES Act to a number of areas that had not been in the plans for this year—or possibly ever. These advancements are not exactly a “bright side to the pandemic”—there is no bright side faced with such a global tragedy—but we are happy to have the opportunity to bring new and improved tools to our communities.

Our first CARES Act expenditures were tightly tied to emergency needs in branches. We worked with a local company Precision Glass to design and install Plexiglas barriers at our service desks. We purchased PPE and cleaning supplies, and purchased additional book bins to facilitate the 4-day quarantine of returned library material recommended by the national library nonprofit OCLC.

We also worked with our government partners on other building enhancements. The HVAC systems at all branches have been updated, and the Montgomery branches have had the air ionization system Phenomenal Aire plugged in to our HVACs. We traded our water fountains in for touchless fountains that also have bottle fillers. And though we won't talk about it much, there's no-touch-flushing in rooms where you'd expect to find it.

The most exciting acquisitions are those that break new ground in the ways we provide our services, and will benefit patrons for years to come. We purchased additional equipment to support virtual and online programming, as well as more Wi-Fi hotspots to lend to patrons. We developed our Senior Connections program, which provides monthly activity kits to seniors who may be staying home due to the pandemic, and reached 425 sen-



iors in January. As COVID-19 is less infectious in outdoor settings, we have added and replaced outdoor features. Meadowbrook replaced three picnic tables in their pavilion area, a new set of outdoor seating has arrived in the amphitheater area at Christiansburg, and Floyd squeezed in one outdoor table on their lot. Colley

Architects of Blacksburg worked with us to develop a plan for the Draper Road side of Blacksburg—a plan too ambitious to complete during the CARES Act funding's original time frame, but a great starting point for future enhancement.

And of course, the biggest and best CARES Act expenditure will be our new Mobile Unit, a 24-foot long Sprinter-type van customized by Mathews Specialty Vehicles, one of the leading bookmobile converters in the country. With staff and patron computer stations, on-board shelving, a lift gate, a sound system, Wi-Fi, an awning and more, the new Mobile Unit will visit senior residences, day cares, community events, and just neighborhoods where geography or need suggest that a stop by the library will help local people link up with the library, stories, skills and ideas. The Mobile Unit is still with Mathews at this point getting its final upgrades, but we are hoping it will arrive by March.

The support of the Friends and the Foundation has always been key to helping the library reach its objectives, and that's more true than ever in these fast-changing times. Thank you to each of you for your support of Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library.

Karim Khan (Library Director)

Branch Updates

MEADOWBROOK | Here are some upcoming programs at Meadowbrook Public Library:

- **Make a special Valentine** for residents at local adult care facilities-February 1-6. We have the supplies for you to make a card in a bag. Just call to request the bag and we will deliver it at curbside. Please place the Valentine in the bag that it came in and return it in the book drop at Meadowbrook Public Library by February 6. This will give us enough time to quarantine and deliver.
- **Virtual Cooking With Your Instant Pot.** Tuesday, February 23, 5:30 p.m. Did you receive an Insta Pot

for a present? Join Angie Helm for virtual “Instant Pot.” Learn how to use your instant pot to create a quick meal.

- **Creative Writing Group-Virtual Meeting.** Saturday, February 6, 11:00 a.m-12:30 p.m. Join us on GoToMeeting for support, feedback, and writing tips. Email Molly at mupthegrove@mfrl.org or call 540-268-1964 for more information. You do not need a GoToMeeting account to join.

We appreciate all that the Friends for Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library.

Cindy Minnick (Branch Supervisor)

FLOYD | Hello Friends!

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. Our curbside service offers patrons a safe and easy way to receive their library materials as well as make copies, send faxes, and print remotely.

Staff have been providing regular take and make crafts for our younger patrons. These have been very popular.

Our **Talking About Books** book club continues via GoToMeeting. Some upcoming titles we’ll be reading are: *The Wonder Boy of the Whistle Stop* by Fannie Flagg in February, *The Girl Before* by JP Delaney in March, *The Pull of the Stars* by Emma Donoghue in April, and *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett in May. Join us on the

second Thursday of each month from 2:00-3:00 PM to talk about some great books.

Some upcoming programs:

Rambling Readers – Every second and fourth 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.

Community Conversations – Via GoToMeeting we’ll participate in a guided discussion about a variety of topics.

Thanks to our Friends for all of their amazing support.

Joann Verostko (Branch Supervisor)

CHRISTIANSBURG | The Christiansburg Library is continually grateful for the support of the Friends of the Library.

As the COVID-19 emergency continues to be challenging in providing traditional library programming, it has provided us with the opportunity to reinvent the programs we offer and the creation of new programs. In working in a virtual format, we have been able to reach more members of the community with programs, including Art Club with take home activity kits. Addition-

ally, we transitioned most of our book clubs to a virtual meeting space which has led to new members joining.

In January, we hosted a virtual author talk with former Christiansburg Library staff member Monica Rodden for her first book, *Monsters Among Us*. It was well received and we look forward to having her back in the future.

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

Salena Sullivan (Branch Supervisor)

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 "

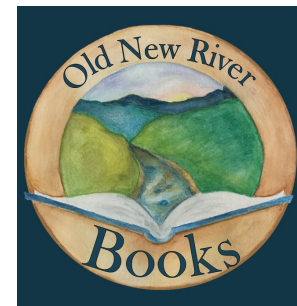


Brown Insurance

**CAPONE'S
JEWELRY**



McMILLION & McMILLION, PC
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT



Crow's Nest Greenhouses



Rainbow Riders
childcare center

