

Library News | Spring 2026

From the Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library



Membership: It is exciting to be both welcoming spring soon and seeing more membership renewals coming in. Thank you!

We are still looking for a new membership chair. Our current chair will guide you through the process of adding and deleting members and printing out the report effortlessly.

Also, we are also still looking for a secretary to take meeting notes (only 8 meetings a year) and a Vice President.

Please consider taking on a position, we can't do the great things for our libraries without our members contributing essential volunteer hours. Please contact me with any questions or if interested at jbookrea@verizon.net

Note: Memberships that have not been renewed in the last several years are being purged as we have reached a limit that the program can't sustain. If you want to renew, but it has been over two years, now is the time to do it.



General News Continued

Dear Members,

The Board is delighted to welcome Susan Perry as our new FOL Newsletter publisher. I know Susan as a fellow Master Gardener and she produces the New River Valley Master Gardener Association Newsletter. As a reader, I can attest to the high quality of that publication. You can also see Susan volunteering at the Garden Tour. Please say hello if you see her. Thank you Susan, are grateful to have you on our team.

Branch Updates

Christiansburg Library: While 2026 started off with a “brrrr,” we stayed warm in the branch with a plethora of fun programs. Jerry Bowyer, a library assistant, may be better known as the creator of the crocheted library creatures that live on our front desk. He expanded his repertoire to host an introductory crochet class that filled up immediately and was a roaring success. The Youth Services Department hosted a K-pop Demon Hunters party for over 50 people that featured music, crafts, and snacks.

We also focused on our partnering organizations this quarter with a Black History Month program and exhibit from Christiansburg Institute. Nearly two dozen patrons attended an after-hours program entitled *Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow – A Celebration of Black Excellence*. The travelling exhibit, *Brick by Brick: The interconnected fight for school equality*, focuses on the history of African-American education in the United States and the creation of the Christiansburg Institute. The New River Health District’s Rise Above program hosted region-wide conversations on substance use in the NRV, focused on helping community members who suffer from substance abuse conditions move forward. Additionally, New River Community Action’s Volunteer Tax Aide returned for the fourth year in a row. They have hosted seven sessions so far and assisted over 120 community members file their taxes for free.

We look forward to warmer days and more programming this spring and summer! Your continued generosity makes programming such as our Summer Reading Program starting on June 1, an outdoor yoga series this summer, and the return of Mill Mountain Theatre possible, so mark your calendars.

Salena Sullivan, Branch Manager



Branch Updates Continued

Blacksburg:

After a long, cold winter — felt both inside and outside — the daffodils are finally blooming, and thoughts at the Blacksburg Library are turning to all of the exciting programming we have coming up this spring and summer! We are so grateful for the support of our Friends of the Library, which enables us to offer so many wonderful and varied programs for our entire community.

After months of planning with the Aging in Community Leadership Team, we will be launching a four-part workshop series built around five key topics that aging experts have identified as critical factors for successfully aging in place: Housing, Health & Wellness, Transportation, Personal Finance, and Connection & Growth.

Your support has enabled us to provide each participant with a complimentary workbook — recently updated by the Leadership Team to include the most current information about Medicare — to help guide their decisions about how they want to live in their later years. As of this writing, all four sessions are completely full, with waiting lists in place.

After a hiatus following last fall's series, our Music Therapy for Adults with Developmental Disabilities program resumed in March and will be held once a month through May. Last year, the popularity of Chair Yoga grew with each session, and thanks to your support, we will bring it back for a series of sessions in May and June. We are also working to add a special "Get Grounded" yoga class for children during our Summer Reading Program.



To wrap up the academic year for both Blacksburg High School and Virginia Tech students, we are planning another "Paws for a Break" as part of our all-day event at the library on May 7. All activities are designed to help students de-stress and find calm while studying for finals — from visits with therapy dogs Alistair, Seamus, Zoe, and possibly Summer, to making origami and coloring.

Thanks to the phenomenal success of our system-wide Sensory Museum programs, Assistant Branch Manager Beth Newman and Program Manager Kerri Copus have been invited to present at the national Public Library Association convention on the development and growth of the program. Their work was named by the Programming Librarian website as a "must see" at the convention — a well-deserved honor!

We have many more programs on the horizon, all made possible by you and your hard work. Thank you!

Laura Dobbins, Branch Manager

Branch Updates Continued

Happenings at the Jessie Peterman Memorial Library (Floyd):

Have you ever wanted to learn how to play a musical instrument but weren't sure how to get started? We have a monthly program that might just be for you! On Saturday, April 11 from 10:00-12:00 you can check out our Ukulele Learning and Jamming program. The first half hour will cover learning the basics followed by a beginner friendly jam session, featuring classics from the 60's to today's pop favorites. This program is offered monthly and is open to ages 13 and up. We do have some limited loaner ukes for this program if you don't have one of your own. The library also has a couple of ukuleles available for check-out.

Or if you are interested in becoming a Virginia Master Naturalist, we have a program on Saturday, April 18th from 1:00-3:00 on how you can join a thriving community of nature lovers in the New River Valley.

Need a little more calm in your life? Come check out our twice monthly Meditation at the Library program on April 6th and 20th from 4:00-5:00 pm. Whether you're new to sitting meditation or have some experience, come check out this program. Chairs are available for folks who aren't comfortable sitting on the floor but you are welcome to bring a yoga mat and/or cushion. Come chill out with us! May dates will be May 4th and May 18th from 4:00-5:00 pm.

With the warmer weather, we welcome you to come and enjoy the new library Pavilion. Join us for upcoming programs on the Pavilion or just grab a bench and enjoy the beauty of the great outdoors.

Joann Verostko, Branch Manager



Branch Updates Continued

Meadowbrook:

The Meadowbrook Public Library is grateful for the continued support of the Friends of the Library. Your generosity helps make it possible for us to offer meaningful programs and resources for our community.

This spring, we have several exciting events planned. Our 2-Day Book Sale will take place on April 10th and 11th, giving patrons the opportunity to discover great reads while supporting the library. Later in the month, we will host our second weekend of Prom Dress Giveaway on April 18th and 19th, helping local students find the perfect dress for their special night at no cost.

Our yearlong reading program, Read Along with Meadowbrook: Celebrating 20 Years, kicks off on April 1st. Each month features a new theme, encouraging readers of all ages to participate. Those who read for six months will earn a free book, and participants who complete all twelve months will receive a special prize.

In May, we look forward to welcoming the community for a Mother's Day Plant Potting event on May 9th at 2:00PM, followed by our Community Seed Exchange on May 15th and 16th, where gardeners can share seeds and ideas for the growing season.

As we move toward summer, we are also preparing for Summer Reading Program and continuing our efforts to support families through our summer meal box distribution program. This program is made possible by our continued partnership with Feeding Southwest Virginia, helping ensure that children in our community have access to food while school is out.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Meadowbrook Public Library. Your generosity helps us create programs, services, and opportunities that truly make a difference in our community.

Jessica Tabor, Branch Manager



2026 Garden Tour—Save the Date!

Celebrating 30 years of Garden Tours

Some dedicated members of the Montgomery Floyd Friends of the Library gathered 3 decades ago and tossed around the idea of a tour of local private gardens. Then, after stepping up to seek out gardens, they recruited volunteers and put the wheels in place for our current membership to carry on the tradition. Jo Brown, past chair and Library Director, surrounded herself with a team of focused volunteers to form that first committee.

Fast forward to 2026. This tour will highlight six beautiful gardens in the Miller Southside/Airport Acres area of Blacksburg. Because of the geography of the tour, attendees are encouraged to consider biking, walking or busing to the gardens if possible.

The tour is pleased to once again feature musicians, artists, New River Valley Master Gardeners, the New River Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, and a rain barrel raffle.

This is the Friends of the Library garden tour. *The longevity of the tour would not be possible without you. The participation by the members of the Friends of Library has been critical to the tour success. You are our Greeters, our red carpet!*

The New River Valley Garden Tour Committee is ready to sign up volunteers from our membership for the role of Garden Greeter. You will be well briefed on your role.

The day after the tour, the Garden Tour Gratitude Social celebrates all the various volunteers, sponsors and garden owners who gather for fellowship and acknowledgement. The Hospitality Committee is seeking volunteers for assistance in making the social a success. Your assistance would be appreciated.

Ellen Hall will coordinate greeters efdhall@gmail.com

Lynn Brammer will coordinate hospitality volunteers lbrammer@vt.edu



Remember all ticket proceeds go directly to the library!

Let's make 2026 a year to remember as the legacy continues!

Submitted by Lynn Brammer

Thank You

Many Thanks to our Event and Program Sponsors | Friends of the Library are deeply appreciative of the following businesses and individuals for their significant support of upcoming 2026 library events and programs.

Each has contributed \$200 or more as named sponsors of the Garden Tour.



Carolyn Rude in memory of Don Rude



Tom and Maureen Patton in memory of Jennifer and Andrew Patton



Calendar



Prom Dress Giveaway
Meadowbrook
Sat. & Sun. Apr. 18-19



Tech for Seniors
Blacksburg
Fri. Apr. 10



Quilting Marathon
Floyd
Sat. Apr. 25



Free Tax Prep
Christiansburg
Thurs. Apr. 2



English for Adults
Blacksburg
Tues. May 5



Meditation
Floyd
Mon. May 4



Writing Workshop
Christiansburg
Mon. May 4



Community Seed Swap
Meadowbrook
Fri. & Sat. May 15-16



Writing Workshop
Christiansburg
Mon. June 1



Spanish Conversations
Blacksburg
Mon. June 1



Bd. Of Trustees Mtg.
Meadowbrook
Weds. June 17



Creative Collaboration
Floyd
Tues. June 9

For more information on more events, visit the library's website at www.mfml.org and find the "Calendars" tab.



Eastern Black Swallowtail caterpillar & butterfly.
Photos: Michelle Alon