

Library News | Spring 2025

From the Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library



Lee and Ray Dessy Story Terrace at the Blacksburg Library

We're proud to announce that the Lee and Ray Dessy Story Terrace at the Blacksburg Library is now fully open—and it's already become the go-to spot for studying, relaxing, eating lunch, and enjoying all the resources of the MFRL system, outdoors!

We officially opened the Terrace to the public on March 15th with a small dedication ceremony. After enjoying orange juice, coffee, and mini muffins, guests were treated to a lively and interactive storytime led by professional storyteller Joelle Shenk. Approximately 80 people of all ages attended, seated comfortably on the grassy, terraced area, while the stage's built-in outlets helped amplify the fun.



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General News Cont'd

Since its opening, the Terrace has quickly become a favorite space for Youth Services programming. In April, they hosted an outdoor music performance by the Blacksburg Chinese School Band, which played songs by Metallica to an enthusiastic audience of over 40 people! That same month, the Terrace was used for a hands-on STEM event, Simple Science: Volcanoes!, where participants ages 5 and up designed and erupted their own volcanoes. Marketing encouraged everyone to “Dress for Mess,” and 22 patrons did—erupting volcanoes and having a blast.

The Terrace is designed for comfort and accessibility, with a wheelchair-accessible picnic table and two café tables with flexible seating arrangements. Visitors can enjoy reading, working, studying, or having a meal—just like those who stopped by for a bite before the Metallica concert at Lane Stadium on May 7th. With strong branch Wi-Fi extending outdoors and a pergola that offers comfortable shade, the space is a welcoming retreat during open hours, when weather permits.

Earlier this year, a local Girl Scout approached us about using the space for her Gold Award project. She and a partner, working closely with a local master gardener, recently submitted plans for a dual-planter bed. The beds will initially showcase native plants and, in the future, provide a learning space for hands-on youth gardening programs. The possibilities for the Lee and Ray Dessy Story Terrace are endless. We warmly invite you to visit and experience this exciting new addition to the Blacksburg Library!



Laura Dobbins, Blacksburg Library Branch Manager

Branch Updates

Blacksburg | Hello Friends!

Thanks to the support of you, our Friends, we've been able to offer a number of new programs to the community, which have seen growing numbers in attendance. Our Chair Yoga program has been very popular with the community, averaging 10 regular attendees on Friday mornings. Our partnership with Anderson Music Therapy Services to present the Music Therapy program for Adults with Developmental Disabilities now has a regular attendance of approximately 15 people, including caregivers. We've been able to offer more art programs for

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Branch Updates Cont'd

all ages, such as Art for All: Mitton Love for adults, and our Puppetry workshop for children. Coming up in the fall, we've scheduled the traveling production by Mill Mountain Theatre for *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus, The Musical*. None of this would have been possible without your very generous support. We thank you!

Laura Dobbins, Branch Manager

Christiansburg | The Christiansburg Library is continually grateful for the support of the Friends of the Library. Our programs would not be possible without your continued support.

This spring, we celebrated the publication of *Southwest Virginia Civil Rights Leader Nannie Berger Hairston: An Oral History* by Sheree Scarborough. Nannie was an important member of the Christiansburg community and we were happy to see 80 people show up for the book launch. This was also our third year of partnering with New River Community Action's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. They were able to provide free tax preparation to over 130 patrons.

As the weather gets warmer, we are gearing up for the Summer Reading Program. We are very excited to host the Summer Reading Program Kickoff Event on May 28th. This summer will feature Tampa Taiko Japanese Drums, Mush! with Sled Dog Noggin, and *Rainbow Fish, The Musical* with Mill Mountain Theatre.

Our summer concert series, Music on the Lawn, will return for the first concert on June 28th with The Old Pros. This is a rain or shine show, so bring your lawn chair and get ready to boogie.

We look forward to our programming this summer and please reach out if there's anything we can help you with!

Salena Sullivan, Branch Manager

Jessie Peterman Memorial (Floyd) | Hello Friends, it's a very exciting time here at Jessie Peterman Memorial Library as we prepare to grow again with the addition of our Pavilion! The 850 square foot free standing structure, created by DesignWorks Construction, will be located on the west end of the library's property, extending over the wooded ravine bordering the parking lot. The Pavilion will serve as a versatile venue for library programming while providing a delightful space for patrons and visitors to enjoy. We had a groundbreaking ceremony for the Pavilion on Friday, April 4th. A crowd of 64 people gathered in our back parking lot near the construction area to listen to some very special guest speakers. Pamela Cadmus, the President of the Floyd County Library Building Fund; Dr. Linda Millsaps, Floyd County Administrator; and Andrew Morris, Floyd Town Manager all spoke about this wonderful project.

We envision the Pavilion as a versatile space, offering opportunities for children's programming, concerts, art programs, nature and science events, and providing a picturesque setting for our community. Positioned at the library terminus of the Lineberry Park to Library Trail, it not only enhances library offerings but also strengthens the connection between the library and the town center.

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Branch Updates Cont'd

The Floyd County Library Building Fund began raising money for the project in December 2023. With an amazing amount of support from the local community, the project is near enough to the goal to be ready for construction to begin. The Floyd Friends of the Library also contributed to the project by selling t-shirts and tote bags which raised awareness as well as money for the Pavilion. Omnibuild General Contractors began construction in early April with an estimated completion date hoped for by October.

Joann Verostko, Branch Manager

Meadowbrook | The Meadowbrook Public Library deeply appreciates the ongoing support of the Friends of the Library. Thanks to your generosity, our winter and spring programs were a great success!

This winter, we were thrilled to host a special visit from the Grinch, complete with festive crafts, delicious treats, and memorable photo opportunities. Our cozy Paint & Sip event was also a hit, offering patrons a relaxing morning of creativity and warm beverages.

Spring brought renewed energy with engaging school tours and special outreach programs for rising 6th graders and future kindergarteners, where we handed out books and prizes to help spark excitement for reading. Our always-popular Egg Hunt was a seasonal highlight, featuring crafts and an Easter basket giveaway. Now, we're eagerly preparing for an exciting summer and fall season!

In June, we're delighted to welcome the Little Critters Petting Zoo. We'll also be launching ReadPlay—a summer-long initiative to help prevent the summer slide. Children can visit the library to read with staff, enjoy backyard games, and earn fun prizes with each visit.

Looking ahead to fall, we're planning a Back-to-School photo shoot and a Halloween costume swap to keep the fun going.

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

Jessica Tabor, Branch Manager

2025 Garden Tour – Save the Date!

The 29th Annual Garden Tour will be held **Saturday, July 12th from 9am to 5pm**. The event will take place rain or shine. Mark your calendars now!

The 2025 Garden Tour features seven lovely gardens, all within Blacksburg. Check out photos and locations of this year's gardens at our website: <http://nrvgardentour.org/>

Paintings of the 2024 New River Valley Garden Tour will be on display at the Blacksburg Library now until August 2025. Ticket sales for the 2025 Garden Tour will begin Sunday, June 1st.



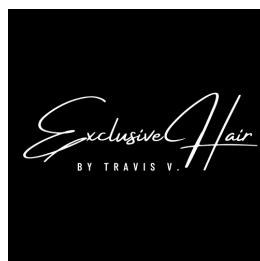
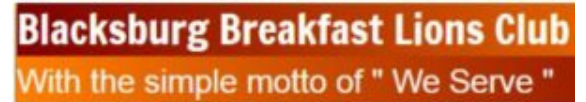
Photo from [E] Effinger Garden

Ellen Hall, Garden Tour Committee

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 2025 library programs and events. Each has contributed \$200 or more as named sponsors of the Summer Reading Program or the Garden Tour.

- Ascential Buildings
- Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club
- Bonomo's
- Capone's Jewelry
- Crows Nest Greenhouses
- Exclusive Hair
- Juneberry Gardens
- Modern Day Roofing.
- Nourish Wellness Path
- The Hearing Clinic
- Tom and Maureen Patton in memory of Jennifer and Andrew Patton
- Carolyn Rude in memory of Don Rude
- Shelter Alternatives



Calendar

**Wolf Trap Institute
Presents: Going Buggy!**

Blacksburg

Fri, May 30th

**Little Critters Petting
Zoo**

Christiansburg

Wed, May 28th

National Donut Day

Meadowbrook

Fri, June 6th

**Meditation at the
Library**

Floyd

Mon, June 2nd

Neon Nostalgia Night

Blacksburg

Thurs, June 5th

Medicare 101

Christiansburg

Tues, June 3rd

**Paint & Pass at the
Picnic Shelter**

Meadowbrook

Mon, June 9th

**Get to Know Your
Neighbors Summer!**

Floyd

Sat, June 7th

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

