

Library News | Fall 2018

From the Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library



Friends Update

Dear Friends,

Your strong financial support this year is resulting in exceptional programming at our four branch libraries:

- You have contributed over \$5,600 so far in membership dues and donations.
- Five Garden Tour sponsors (Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club, Bonomo's, Brown Insurance, Crow's Nest Greenhouses, and The Oaks Victorian Inn) donated \$1,000, covering the costs of the tour and resulting in a net profit for library programs of over \$8,000!
- Some of our volunteers work with the book sales at

the four branches. Already this year they have made over \$10,600 in sales.

[continued on page 2]

In this issue:

Fall Calendar.....	2
General News.....	2-7
Branch Updates.....	7

Fall Calendar

September

Tuesday

4

New York Times Best Selling author, Beth Macy, presents from her new book *Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company That Addicted America* | 6-7pm, Christiansburg Library

October

Tuesday

2

Tracee de Hahn, Author of the *Agnes Liihi* mystery series set in Switzerland, will speak about her books and the writing process | 6-7pm, Christiansburg Library

October

Thursday

11

VT professors and local authors Erika Meitner and Matthew Vollmer give a book talk | 6:30pm, Blacksburg.

October

Saturday

13

Free clothing swap (bring in donations the week before) | Blacksburg Library

October

Tuesday

16

Mary Carter Bishop speaks about her new book, *Don't You Ever: My Mother and Her Secret Son* | 6-7pm, Christiansburg Library

October

Tuesday

16

Members of the Friends of the Library will hold its annual business meeting & elections | 7:30pm Christiansburg Library



October

Wednesday

24

Tax savings panel discussion (see page 6 for full details) | 2pm Blacksburg Library

General News Cont'd

Friends Update | [Cont'd from 1]

Here is how the library is using that money.

- Contributors to the Summer Reading Program for children (**Adventure Club, McMillion and McMillion CPA, Rainbow Riders, Collison Plus, and Ellen Canode**) paid the costs of four professional entertainers, with over 1,400 very delighted children in attendance. These entertainers found special ways of incorporating books and reading into their performances.
- The library staff provided a continuous array of additional educational events for adults, young adults and children throughout the summer. The celebration of Nannie Hairston's life, attracting an audience of 90, was especially popular.
- The staff organized hundreds of events throughout the school year including author talks, symposia, book clubs, story times, and musical performances.
- Your contributions paid for the supplies, publicity, prizes and refreshments for the above programs and events.

In addition, the Friends funds pay for four issues of the Newsletter with a circulation of over 300 households and subsidize the cost of providing coffee for all patrons at the four libraries. Thank you all so very much!

By Ellen Hall (President, Montgomery Friends)

General News Cont'd

Another Successful Garden Tour | Over 600 tickets were sold for this year's New River Valley Garden Tour, with record earnings of about \$8,000 for the library's special adult and children's programs. Hearty thanks to the many people contributing to this success, including:

- *The main attractions:* the Brilliant, Effinger, Hall, McCann, Pinkerton, Roper, and Steeves gardens. Who could count the inspiration, ingenuity, hard work, and cumulative hours these gardeners invested?
- *The volunteers:* 30 FOL volunteers welcomed visitors at entry tables, 22 New River Valley master gardeners served as tour guides and ran a plant clinic, 14 instrumentalists provided lovely music, and eight artists from the Blacksburg Regional Art Association created visual art on the spot.



- *The Sponsors:* Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club, Bonomo's, Brown Insurance, Crow's Nest, and The Oaks Victorian Inn provided start-up funding for the tour.
- *The Garden Tour Committee:* 22 dedicated individuals planned throughout the year, with special recognition to Jo Brown for her many years of service to the success of this endeavor.

Thanks to Elissa and Harry Steeves, who hosted the

after-party for volunteers, and to Phyllis Eschenmann and Lynn Brammer, who planned this gracious event.



SAVE THE DATE! Next year's tour is July 6, 2019, to feature seven gardens in Blacksburg and Christiansburg. Interested in planning for this event? **The Committee welcomes new members.**

For more information, email mcole@vt.edu.

By Mary Ann Cole (Garden Tour Committee)

General News Cont'd

From the Director's Desk | What does a library do?

As Friends of the Library, you all know there are many answers to this question. But one thing all libraries work towards is building a community of readers. That's why we have a collection, and why we work hard to keep it accessible, up-to-date, and as varied and interesting as the people who come in to check it out.

With the Board of Trustees, we have been working to build our community of readers here by reaching out to children and teens. From an exciting Summer Reading Program, to outreach visits to schools, day care facilities, to storytimes focusing on developing early literacy skills, we are showing more kids that books and reading are fun—we don't tell the kids it is also good for their development.

This summer, with the guidance of the Board of Trustees, we introduced a program of fine relief for children and teens. Thousands of youth in our service area have library cards that were blocked from use due to unpaid overdue fines. We developed a structured program where children and teens could sign up for "The Great Summer Waive." Once signed up, the kids could have portions of their fines waived for reading a book, attending a library program, creating at library craft or maker station, or for using one of our e-Book or re-

search apps. So far this summer, 229 children and teens have had their fines waived. We are excited to welcome back these borrowers. After all, a book is always more valuable in a child's hand than it is on a library shelf. By the end of summer we expect to have waived over \$2,000 in fines. This fall we will continue to waive fines for youth for reading books and for participating in library activities—as The Great Summer Waive becomes just "The Great Waive." **We have also decided that as of this summer, children's and teen material will no longer be subject to fines for late return.** Of course, kids will still need to return the items – material kept over six weeks overdue will block any card. But if the kids bring back their material, they are no longer subject to fines.

We hope this makes the library more useful, more accessible and friendlier to kids and their families. We are working every day to increase our presence in the community and our positive impact on the people who live here. I appreciate very much the support of the Friends, and hope that each of you will feel free to let me know your ideas about improving library service in Montgomery and Floyd Counties.

By Karim Khan (Library Director)



General News Cont'd

SUMMER READING PROGRAM | “Reading takes you everywhere” was the Summer Reading Program theme for 2018. We had a very busy summer and enjoyed an increase in participation; 1,471 children signed up and 267 teens signed up which was an increase from last year. In total, 55 children and teen Summer Reading Programs were delivered system-wide. New this year was Mr. Bond Science Guy, who delighted audiences with his over the top science experiments and interactive show. Also new was the Bright Star Theater from North Carolina. They presented two shows, Alice in Wonderland and Chicken Little. Returning this year was Jonathan Austin, who wowed audiences with juggling, cycling and magic tricks. Joelle Shenk, a local favorite, offered an interactive theater workshop to tweens and teens.



We had four professional performers offer children’s shows. It would not have been possible without our Friends of the Library. Many thanks to our sponsors and to our wonderful Montgomery and Floyd Friends of the Library for funding the Summer Reading Program and giving children in the community access to ongoing entertainment and educational events at MFRL throughout the summer!

By Sarah Pahl (Youth Services Manager)



GO DIGITAL, SAVE \$ | In an effort to be greener and improve how your membership dollars are spent, we’re urging members to *opt in* to receive our quarterly newsletters in digital format rather than print. **Currently 20% of the average membership goes to printing and shipping costs associated with generating physical newsletters throughout the year.** In other words, that’s a big chunk of membership dollars we can

redirect to our mission of supporting library programs.

To opt in and receive future newsletters via PDF form in an email rather than by postal mail, please contact us at: mfrlfriends@gmail.com or respond to our forthcoming email survey.

By Ken Vaughan (Newsletter Editor)



General News Cont'd



Win/Win Opportunity: Reduce Taxes and Contribute to Friends of the Library

The 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act greatly increases the standard deduction while reducing the itemized deductions and eliminating the personal exemption. The result is an estimated 90% of taxpayers will take the standard deduction in 2018. Thus, there will be no *ostensible* tax benefit for making charitable contributions as most taxpayers will not itemize deductions.

Many members of the Montgomery Friends have retirement income from three sources: a retirement annuity such as VRS, social security, and distributions from an IRA. Taxpayers over 70.5 are required to take a required minimum distribution [RMD] from their IRA. For example, if you receive a RMD of \$4,000, the RMD increases your adjusted gross income and taxable income which could increase the amount of Medicare premiums for Part B and increase the amount of your social security that is taxable as well as your income tax.

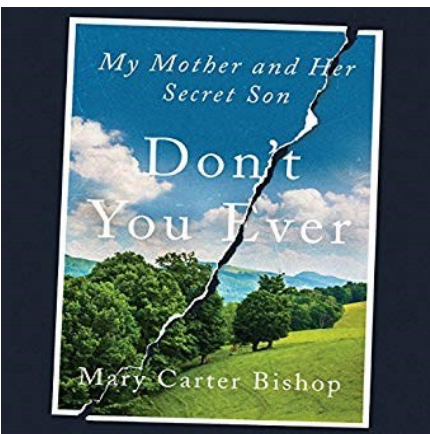
To avoid these increases, make a Qualified Charitable Distribution [QCD] which is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to qualified charities, such as the Friends of the Library. QCDs are only available to taxpayers who are older than 70.5. QCDs count as part of your required minimum distribution for the year. You will not have any adjusted gross income from the distribution and you will not have an itemized charitable contribution for tax purposes. You will still take the standard deduction (\$13,300 single; \$26,600 joint). **QCDs of \$4,000 or \$6,000 will save the middle-income taxpayer \$1,358 and the upper middle-income taxpayer, \$2,808 in combined federal and Virginia income tax and Medicare premium. You help the charity and you save taxes and possibly Medicare premium. A win-win opportunity.**

For more information, please come to a panel discussion of this opportunity on October 24 at 2pm at the Blacksburg Library. The panel will consist of a taxpayer, a CPA, and an AARP tax return preparer.

By Bill Duggins (Friends Member) & Sam Hicks (Treasurer, Friends)

Talk with Mary Carter Bishop | Local author Mary Carter Bishop's Roanoke Times & World-News series on poisonings and fraud by exterminators and other pesticide users won a George Polk Award and was a Pulitzer finalist.

Mary will be at the Christiansburg Library to present from her new book *Don't You Ever: My Mother and Her Secret Son*. "Digging deep into her family's lives for understanding, Mary Bishop unfolds a sweeping narrative of religious intolerance, poverty, fear, ambition, class, and



social expectations. A riveting memoir about a family haunted by a shameful secret, *Don't You Ever* is a powerful story of a woman's search for her long-hidden sibling and of the factors that profoundly impact our individual destinies," adapted from book jacket. The event, co-hosted by the Christiansburg Library and the Friends of the Library, will offer refreshments.

There will be books available for sale from Canterbury Books. For more information on this series of events please call the Christiansburg Public Library at 540-382-6965. Members of the Montgomery Friends will hold an annual business meeting and elections shortly after the refreshment period.

By Ellen Hall (President, Montgomery Friends)

Branch Updates

CHRISTIANSBURG | We are winding down from a very busy Summer Reading program here at Christiansburg and I want to take this time to thank the Friends for their continued support of our summer programming.

While we had many programs for all ages, here are some of our most popular programs this summer. Little Critters Petting Zoo was here at the beginning of August and over 700 people attended that event and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Our Music on the Lawn series has been very successful this year, drawing twice as many people as normally attend. Both of these are events that we could not do without the generous support of the Friends. We rounded out August with a bagged book sale and raised over \$1000 in one week to benefit the Friends of the Library.

The Christiansburg Library continues to reach out to the community and we are deep in festival and outreach season. We regularly see about 100 people at the Christiansburg Farmers Market every month. Touch-a-Truck, while rainy, was still a success and we talked with and

distributed books to almost 400 adults and children at the event. **We will be at the Kiwanis Wilderness Trail Festival on September 15 and the Christiansburg Farmer's Market on the fourth Thursday of every month, through the end of the season.**

Fall is quickly approaching and we will be featuring two local authors in October. **Tracee De Hahn, a local mystery writer, will be at the library on October 2, and Pulitzer Prize finalist author, Mary Bishop, will be at the library on October 16 to discuss her book, *Don't You Ever*.** Mark your calendar now!

We would also like to extend a special thank you to the family of Lucille W. Dobbins, an (almost) lifelong resident of Christiansburg, who passed away on May 25, 2018 at 89 years old. We received a donation of almost 700 DVDs in Ms. Dobbins's name, some of which we will be able to add to the circulating collection at MFRL and some of which will be donated to the Friends of the Library.

By Salena Sullivan (Branch Supervisor)

BLACKSBURG | Hello Friends! We have had a wonderfully busy summer here at the Blacksburg Library. With your support, we brought the Mill Mountain Zoo to the library and 130 people came out to pet the chinchilla! This fall we have a few great programs planned. **In partnership with Sustainability Blacksburg, we are hosting three terrific programs during Sustainability week, September 15-22.** These programs will focus on community resilience, sustainability home skills, and sustainable resistance to the pipeline and beyond. For more information about these great programs, keep an eye on our events calendars or visit <http://sustainableblacksburgva.org>

Blacksburg Library will host a **Free Clothing Swap on Saturday, October 13.** We are asking people to bring in clothes the week before so that we can have everything set up for the event. Come shop even if you didn't bring anything to share! The spring Book sale was so incredi-

bly successful that we've decided to do it twice a year. **We will hold the next book sale November 1-4, with all proceeds going directly to the Friends of the Library.** Tell your friends to support the library and add more books to their personal libraries! Also, we will host our 3rd Craft Supply Swap on Saturday, November 10. We've had a wonderful community reaction to this. Clean out your stash or just come to restock. Everyone is welcome.

Finally, thanks for all your amazing work on the Garden Tour! The gardens were lovely and the day was perfect. Thank you so much for everything you do for our wonderful libraries!

By Monena Hall (Branch Supervisor)

General News Cont'd

Sponsorships | Friends of the Library are deeply appreciative of the following businesses for their significant support of library programs and events in 2018. The following businesses have contributed \$200 or more as named sponsors of the Summer Reading Program or the Garden Tour.

Crow's Nest Greenhouses



Brown Insurance



Rainbow Riders
childcare center

Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club
With the simple motto of " We Serve "

Thanks also to donors *Blacksburg Eye Associates*, *Collision Plus*, *Eats Natural Foods*.

Friends in Montgomery County: over a hundred of our members have already renewed for 2018. Have you?
Please check your mailing label.
If your mailing label includes the line "Renewed through 2018" or if you've already done so, please disregard.



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