

Library News | Spring 2019

From the Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library



Friends Update

From the Director's Desk | Welcome to 2019! Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library is looking forward to a year of growth and progress. Library staff and our Board of Trustees are currently working on a 5 year Strategic Plan. In Virginia, all libraries submit their plans to the state annually as part of application for grants of aid, but the Strategic Plan gives us the chance to review our Mission, Vision and Values, and to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of our current service. Plus we scan for new and improved methods, resources, and initiatives that will benefit our patrons. We expect to post a public survey in mid-March that will

give all our patrons a chance to offer input into our future plans. But as Friends of the Library, please feel free to email me any time with input on directions you would like your library to explore.

[continued on page 2]

In this issue:

Spring Calendar.....	2
General News.....	1-4
Branch Updates.....	5-7

Help Wanted (see page 7)

Spring Calendar

March Saturday 9 Local authors Gary McPherson, Jiffy Day, and Mi- chael Abraham discuss their books, local histo- ry and culture Blacksburg Library	April Saturday 6 Clothing Swap Blacksburg Library	April Thursday-Sunday 11-14 \$5 fill-a-bag book sale Blacksburg Library	April Thursday 18 Craft Supply Swap Blacksburg Li- brary	April Sunday 28 Local gardeners' bi- -annual Plant Swap Blacksburg Library
May Saturday-Sunday 4-5 \$6 fill-a-bag book sale Meadow- brook Library	May Friday 17 Outdoor Concert Series: <i>Roots 2 Mu-</i> <i>sic</i> Christians- burg Library			

General News

From the Director's Desk | [Cont'd from 1]

Of course, sometimes you get to plan, and sometimes you don't. In November we were told by the third party vendor who handled our holds notifications that they would be exiting that line of business at the end of 2018. This presented us with a challenge. Some weeks, 20% of the new checkouts in the library come from materials that people had requested using the holds system, and we knew that each request is important. The overall automated system, SIRSI, did not have the ability to replace this function, and while other third party vendors exist who could provide a similar service, the cost would be greater than we had planned for.

Our IT Director, Branch Managers, Business Manager and I had little time to figure out what to do, but IT Director Chris Elledge felt confident that he and the IT staff could program an alternative that would actually improve on the past. So, you may have experienced this year our new "Green Notifications." By default, each

patron now receives full information on each request that is waiting for her/him in email—with options for an automated voice call or text notification instead. Implementation of this new program also saves hours each week for the check-in staff, and has been extended to our overdue notices as well. I'm excited that a solution to an unforeseen issue can be more accurate, more efficient, and save paper and postage resources.

We hope you continue to find that the library is useful, friendly, and meeting your needs. 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

2019 Garden Tour | SAVE THE DATE! The 2019 New River Valley Garden Tour is July 6, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. rain or shine.

Plan now to visit these seven lovely gardens:

Alisa Colpitts

2902 Stradford Lane, Blacksburg

Margie and Warren Kark

245 Diamond Avenue, Christiansburg

Deb and Greg Miller - Willow Springs Farm

3673 Peppers Ferry Road, Radford

Bonnie and Franklyn Moreno

995 Carson Drive, Christiansburg

The Oaks Victorian Inn

311 East Main Street, Christiansburg

Carole and Philip Pappas

1903 Meadowview Circle, Blacksburg

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

1301 Gladewood Drive, Blacksburg

Tickets will be available on June 1 at MFRL libraries—Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Jessie Peterman, and Meadowbrook—as well as at Salem and Radford libraries. This year, tickets will also be available from our website www.newrivervalleygardentour.org as of June 1. Also

be sure to check out the website for previews of next summer's gardens.

By Frieda Bostian (Garden Tour Committee)



NOTICE | A joint meeting of the Friends of the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library will occur in late April or early May with a specific date/time to be an-

NOTICE | Joyce Hill Esterhuizen, author of the children's book, *A Penny in My Pocket*, will be the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library, April 29 at 6:30. The presentation and meeting are open to the public.

FRESH LOOK | Want to see enjoy your Friends newsletters in all their full-colored splendor? Sign up to receive yours electronically via email rather than in paper form by contacting us at mfrlfriends@gmail.com

nounced soon. This meeting is open to the public and is a good way to meet other volunteers, hear about up-coming programs, and discuss ways you can help.

The speaker will go first followed by a reception and the annual meeting. Come and meet other volunteers, hear about up-coming programs, and discuss ways you can help.

Switching to digital also helps us cut down printing costs (roughly 20% of your membership dollars) to further help library programs.

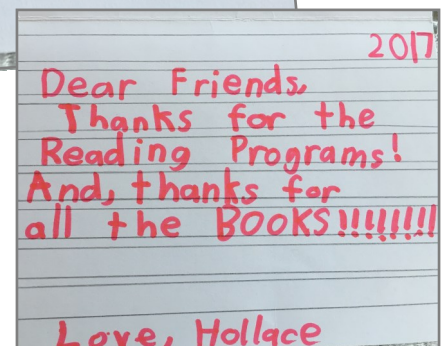
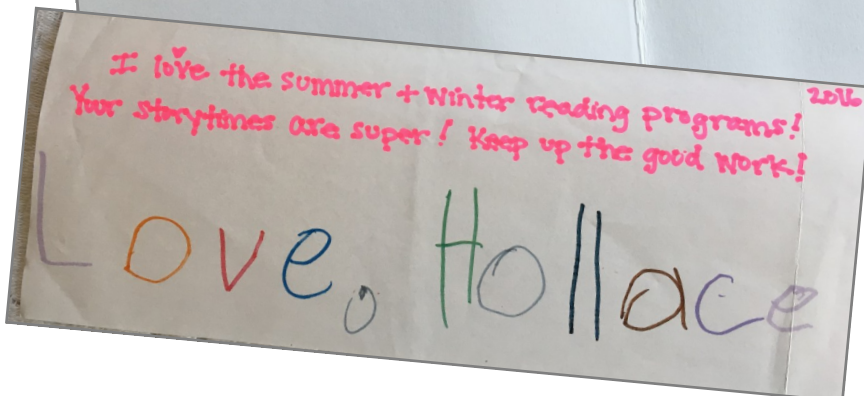
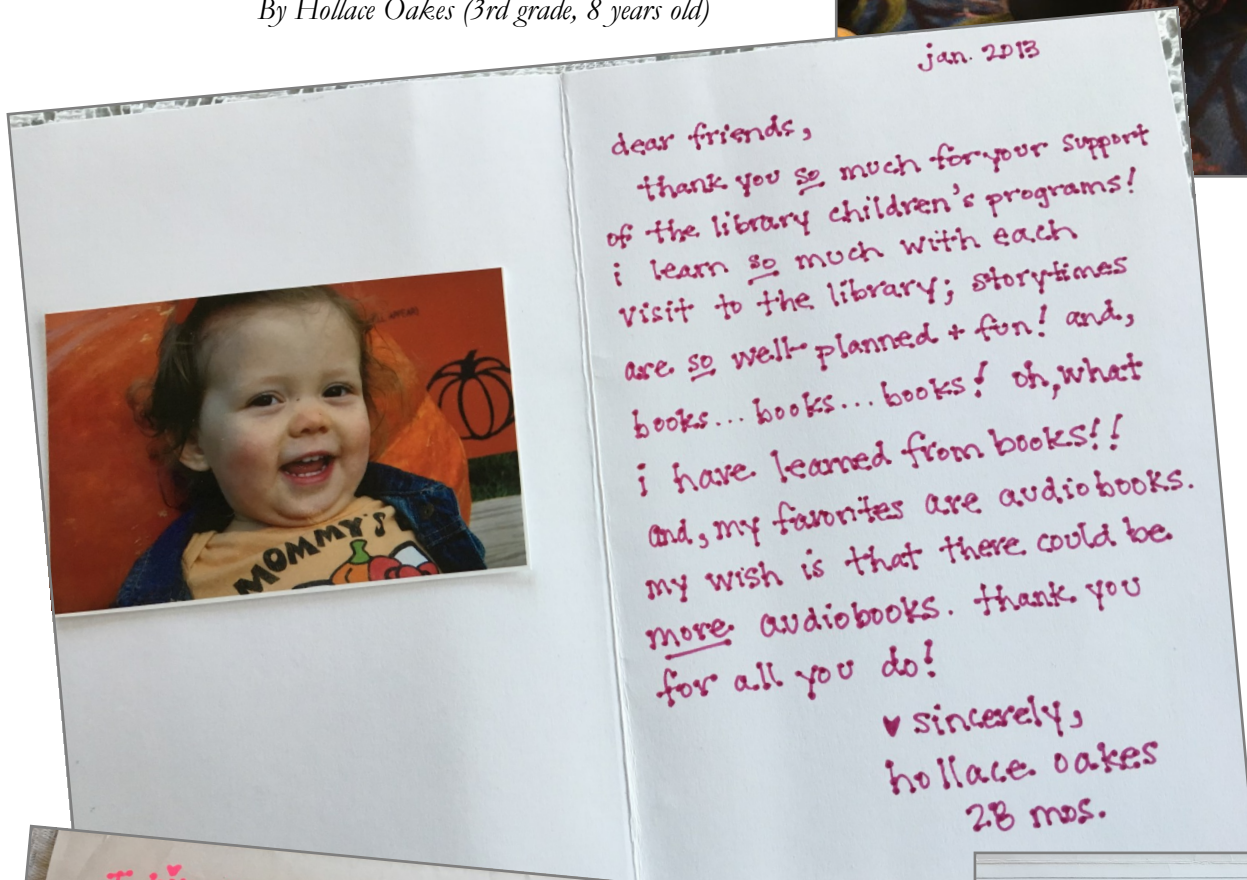
General News Cont'd

We Always Like Hearing from Hollace | This summer, someone asked me what my favorite place was and I said, "The Library!" I was just six months old when my mother started taking me to the library for Storytimes. I love the library because there is so much to do! Whether it's computers or crafts or looking up books with the card catalog or simply reading a magazine, there's always something to do!

The library is there so everyone can have the privilege of sitting down on their couch at home with a book in hand. I think all children should be read to because when they're older, it will help them read themselves.

This is why the library is my favorite place!

By Hollace Oakes (3rd grade, 8 years old)



Branch Updates

JESSIE PETERMAN | Upon entering the library you will be greeted by the 8' tall wooden sculpture created by local artist, Charlie Brouwer. *Desire, Knowledge, Mystery*, made from pinewood slabs and latex paint, is a perfect addition to the library as the figure has a book under his arm.

Human figures make frequent appearances in Charlie's work, as do ladders. He makes work that is meaningful to him and he hopes others are able to discover their own metaphorical and symbolic meanings when they encounter it.



In spite of the weather we have had an active winter. We have provided support for our community organizations:

- This is the 3rd year for the Wild Organic Gardeners' winter series. Their gardening programs are always informative and relevant to Floyd County. The program on climate change drew crowd of over 60.
- Blue Ridge Heritage's program on Coping and Co-existing with Coyotes presented by Chad Fox, head of USDA livestock protection program, was also

well attended.

- Randall Wells, Partnership for Floyd, gave a presentation on the Old Appalachian Trail (OAT) that ran through Floyd County before being rerouted in 1955. Paul Sullivan of Cycle Floyd was on hand to talk about plans to mark this trail for hiking, biking, and driving this historic route.
- NRVCS held the REVIVE training showing the participants how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose emergency with the administration of Naloxone. We will be the first in the region to host their Community Conversation on Addiction. Their goal is to help the public understand addiction as a disease and not a moral failing or character flaw.

We are proud and excited to announce our second Family READS (Reading and English to Achieve Dreams and Success) every Thursday evening from March 14 through May 23. This program is made possible through the Literacy Volunteers of the NRV, Floyd County High School, and other community members.

I wish to thank all of our Friends for your continuing support and helping to bring programs for our community.

By Lori Kaluszcza (Branch Supervisor)



Branch Updates Cont'd

CHRISTIANSBURG | The Christiansburg Library is continually grateful for the support of the Friends of the Library. Our winter programming has been very successful and well received.

In December, Santa Claus stopped by take photos with children and their families and we had 52 people in attendance. We also had 21 participants in our February Art Club for homeschoolers, where the young artists created Water-Lilly themed collages inspired by Claude Monet. In February, we were lucky enough to have author Ron Peterson Jr. discuss his book *Under the Trestle: The 1980 Disappearance of Gina Renee Hall & Virginia's First "No Body" Murder Trial* to an audience of 140. Our beekeeping program was well received in January with 27 attendees.

We are very excited and hard at work on our upcoming programming for the spring and summer. In April, Good Samaritan Hospice will be joining us for a second

class in a four part series on Hospice 101. We will be hosting our annual Music on the Lawn series through the generous support of the Friends. This year we have expanded our series from four performances to five performances. Mark your calendars now so you remember. These outdoor concerts are a lot of fun and great way to spend a Saturday evening in the summer. Bring a blanket and a picnic and enjoy. The schedule for the 2019 series is as follows:

- May 17th (Friday) – Roots 2 Music
- June 15th – Gina & Jason Dilg
- July 20th – Indian Run String Band
- August 17th – Vinyl Tap
- September 28th – The McKenzies

Thank you so much for your continued support!

By Salena Sullivan (Branch Supervisor)

BLACKSBURG | Hello to our wonderful Friends!

We are gearing up for a busy and fun spring at the Blacksburg Library! This spring, in partnership with the Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley, we will run year 2 of the Family READS program. This is a sponsored program of the American Dream Literacy Initiative, a grant offering of the American Library Association, is made possible by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library is proud to be one of 16 libraries chosen for this grant, and one of two libraries that received year two funding. The program is planned for 7 weeks, from March 20 to May 8, 2019.

Local authors Gary McPherson, Jiffy Day, and Michael Abraham will be with us on Saturday, March 9 to discuss their books and local history and culture.

April is particularly busy for us. The Clothing Swap will be on Saturday, April 6th. The spring Book Sale will take

place April 11-14. The Craft Supply Swap will be on Thursday, April 18. Finally, we will partner with local gardeners to present our bi-annual Plant Swap on Sunday, April 28. Bring us your donations and we will turn them into programming you love!

Next time you are in the library, please take a moment to admire the fact that most of the books are off the very bottom shelf in the entire adult section. This was a multi-month long project, complete with the help of our fantastic team and wonderful volunteers. Our hope is that this makes our collection more accessible for all of our patrons. I have a wonderful team and I can't thank them enough for their hard work on this important project!

Finally, thanks to you for all of our support over the years. We are great because of the community we work with and for. In appreciation,

By Monena Hall (Branch Supervisor)

Branch Updates Cont'd

JESSIE PETERMAN | Floyd Friends of the Library has started off strong in 2019 with good participation during our annual membership drive in January. Many thanks extended to Friends who were present at the library to sign-up patrons, and to those of you who renewed your membership. This money is used to fund special programs at JPML such as the Summer Reading Program. Our humble donations add up and make a huge difference for our library community. As a FOL member you are eligible to receive the quarterly newsletter by mail or electronically by email; just indicate your preference on the renewal form and share the appropriate information. If you choose not to renew member-

ship, you will be dropped from the newsletter list after 4/18/19. New FOL memberships are accepted any time during the year.

We have filled the officer's positions on the Floyd FOL Board: Amy Helm, Treasurer; Susan McCrea, Secretary; and Kit Haggard, President. Our next meeting is scheduled April 18, 2019 at 3:30 PM at JPML. Hope to see you there.

Kudos to our library staff! As always you remain amazing and most helpful to all of the library patrons. We cannot say thank you enough!

By Kit Haggard (Floyd FOL President)



Help Wanted: Board Member | The Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Foundation is looking for a few new board members. We are a small board, we have 3 official meetings each year per our by-laws, and our primary purpose is to review the Library Foundation investments and to disburse them as needed for large, mainly capital, projects. While we do not have annual financial goals, we have been trying to have a fundraiser or letter-writing campaign each year. We have a particular need for board members with any type of financial, bookkeeping, or accounting background as our treasurer position is due to turn over in 2020. But, we also need a few more general members. If you are interested, please email our chair, Gail Billingsley, at gail.billingsley@gmail.com or call 540-961-2113. Thank you.

Help Wanted: Treasurer | Help manage the financial assets and record the transactions of the Friends of the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library. Make 2-4 deposits per month, write 1-4 checks per month, and make reports to the Montgomery Friends monthly. QuickBooks files and Excel files available to make it easy. Please consider volunteering and giving back in this unique way. Contact Ellen Hall, efdhall@gmail.com, or Sam

Buttons, Buttons, Buttons | As the outreach coordinator for Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library I do lots of craft projects with assisted living facilities and RSVP. One of the materials I can use is buttons of any size, color, or shape. If you're cleaning and find unused buttons then send them to me. You can drop them off at any library and they will be sent to Linda Spivey at the Christiansburg Library. Thanks! And Thanks for the Friends of the Library funding the craft projects I'm doing.

Linda Spivey (Outreach and PR Coordinator)

Thank You

Sponsorships | The following businesses have already committed to sponsoring events in 2019.

Summer Garden Tour:

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



Crow's Nest Greenhouses



Summer Reading Program:



Rainbow Riders
childcare center

Also, thanks to the **Van Tyne Family** for their sponsorship of both the Summer Garden Tour and Summer Reading Program.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Friends in Montgomery County: over a hundred of our members have already renewed for 2019. Have you?
Please check your mailing label.
If your mailing label includes the line "Renewed through 2019" or if you've already done so, please disregard.

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