

Library News | Spring 2020

From the Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library



FRIENDS UPDATE

Dear Friends,

A warm welcome to all our many new members! We are so happy to join with you in supporting the extraordinary programming at the four public libraries in Montgomery and Floyd Counties.

We have a very special program coming up Saturday, April 18th at 2 pm. Local author, Sharyn McCrumb, will be talking about her books celebrating the history and folklore of Appalachia. Come to hear this New York Times bestselling author and stay for a reception hosted by the Friends. Following the reception will be a short business meeting of the combined Friends of the

Library from Montgomery and Floyd Counties. It is open to everyone, so stay if you can.

I am frequently asked by prospective members if these libraries are not already being supported through their taxes. They are indeed! *[continued on page 2]*

In this issue:

Spring Calendar.....	2
General News.....	1-3
Branch Updates.....	3-5

Spring Calendar

March Thursday 19 Lanxing Fu: Building climate justice via theatre Blacksburg	March Thursday 26 Book Sale. \$5/bag. Blacksburg 9am	April Monday 6 Reading Out Loud: Escaping the Nazis Blacksburg 4pm	April Thursday 9 Brandi & Carlton Turner: food access & healthy communities Bburg 4pm	April Saturday 18 Author talk: Sharyn McCrumb Blacksburg 2pm
April Monday 20 Film <i>Imaginary Witness: Hollywood and the Holocaust</i> Blacksburg 6pm	May Saturday 2 Music on the Lawn Series: <i>The Rag Top</i> Christiansburg	May Saturday 2 EastMont Garden & Tractor Day, plus Bag Book sale Meadowbrook	Continuing a new bag-sale tradition, the Blacksburg book sale on April 9 will be open early to members only of the Friends of the Library. From 9:00-11, members get first access to the books. If you're not already a member, this is a key benefit to join now (or sign up/renew at the sale). Similarly, the Meadowbrook book sale on 5/2 will be open to members early on 5/1 from 3-5pm.	

General News

FRIENDS UPDATE | [cont'd from 1]

The counties pay for salaries, books, magazines, furniture, computers, databases and more. But *you*, dear Friends, add frosting to that cake by supporting the exceptional programming for children and adults as well as receptions like the one for Sharyn McCrumb.

Ellen Hall (*President, Montgomery County Friends*)

GARDEN TOUR | The eight lovely gardens below will be even lovelier on **July 11**, the date of this year's New River Valley Garden Tour. Plan now to treat yourself to this Blacksburg event! Look for full descriptions and ticket information in the summer newsletter.

- Jane and Mike Aronson (407 Airport Road)
- Jo and Bud Brown (305 Eheart Street SW)
- Janet and Gary Buss (901 Draper Road SW)
- Phyllis and Doug Garnett-Deakin (404 Dunton Drive)
- Mary Ann Hansen and Andy Roberts (307 Eakin Street SW)
- The Willard Street Gardens:
 - Martha Bixby (901 Willard Drive)

- Linda and Michael Harvey (803 Willard Drive)
- Diane Naff (805 Willard Drive)

Please consider being one of our volunteers on tour day, July 11. Checking and selling tickets at one of the gardens is a wonderful way to contribute to this summer event. Volunteer for a shift and you are invited to our friendly Garden Gratitude Social the following day to thank all those involved with making the tour a success. Sign ups will begin at a later date closer to the tour, but you may send your contact information now to Ellen Hall (efdhall@gmail.com).

By Frieda Bostian (*Garden Tour*)

General News

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK | New things bloom in Spring—and this year one of the new things has a tech lineage. **All branches of Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library are now lending mobile wireless hotspot devices.** The hotspots will allow patrons to connect a wireless-enabled device, such as a tablet, smartphone, laptop or other device to the internet. The hotspots use the cellular phone network of our partners (T-Mobile and U.S. Cellular) to provide fast internet service to most locations in Montgomery and Floyd Counties.

Lending these hotspots broadens access to the library's digital resources such as e-books, e-audio, and research tools; but it also addresses the digital divide in two ways. It allows users who cannot afford fast internet to get to education, job hunting, and government resources in their homes; and it also helps those who live in areas where home internet is not available. These days so many things are often done online; applying for jobs, communicating with your health providers, doing your taxes, helping children with schoolwork—even the upcoming Census 2020. Persons who don't have high-speed internet at home often delay updating their operating systems and applications on their home devices because it takes too long—these hotspots can help in-

crease the security and usefulness of all the devices in the home.

There are 35 wireless hotspots available for checkout beginning this month. Checkouts last one week, and there is a \$1.00 per day fine for overdue devices. For more information about checking out a wireless hotspot, visit or call your Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library branch. You may also reserve a hotspot online at www.mfrrl.org. We hope adding this to our services will increase how well we meet our mission to inform, inspire, empower, and connect the people we serve.



By Karim Khan (Library Director)

Branch Updates

JESSIE PETERMAN | The new year has got off to a great start with a variety of programs. Our Family Art Night program in January was a big success drawing twenty-seven kids and their parents. Staff members Cheryl Mackian and Ann-Margaret Shortt are the creative minds behind this recurring program which encourages kids and adults to engage their artistic imagination. The Wild Organic Gardening Club met in January with a program on water which drew fifty people who wanted to learn where our water comes from and how to keep it flowing clean. Barbara Pleasant, author of many books on gardening, will be their guest speaker in February. Branch Manager, Lori Kaluszka, retired in February. Lori worked at Jessie Peterman Memorial Library for almost thirteen years. Her dedication, enthusiasm, and

unwavering cheerfulness will be greatly missed. We wish her well with her retirement. The Friends generously hosted a beautiful reception for Lori on her last day.

Some upcoming programs:

- **Red Cross Blood Drive** – a recurring partnership with the Red Cross to help save lives.
- **Won't You Be My Neighbor?** – Celebrating Mr. Rogers' birthday with storytime and a craft.
- **Family Art Night** – Celebrate spring with painting, sculpture, and a community art project.

I want to thank the Friends for all the support they give, especially for all their hard work making Lori's reception a beautiful successful event.

By Joan Verostko

Branch Updates

BLACKSBURG | Hello Friends,

We are partnering with Virginia Tech School of Performing Arts to bring in three artists; two will be later this spring. On Thursday, March 19 **Lanxing Fu**, a co-director of Superhero Clubhouse will share their holistic approach to building climate justice through creative practice, using the tools of theater. On Thursday, April 9 at 4:00 p.m., **Brandi and Carlton Turner** will speak about their research project which considers how a more expansive imagination of future community well-being can change the narrative of what is possible and build collective community agency in the broader food access and healthy community development initiative.

We are partnering with University Libraries at Virginia Tech to bring two programs to Blacksburg Library in support of the Americans and the Holocaust: Traveling Exhibit. On April 6 at 4:00 pm., Bradley Nichols, visiting assistant professor of history at Virginia Tech, will lead **Reading Out Loud: Escaping the Nazis**, a mediated discussion session. Monday, April 20 at 6:00 p.m., we will have a film screening of ***Imaginary Witness: Hollywood and the Holocaust*** followed by a discussion of the film.

We are delighted that New York Times bestselling author **Sharyn McCrumb** will join us on Saturday, April 18 at 2:00 p.m. Some of her titles include *The Ballad of Tom Dooley*, *The Ballad of Frankie Silver*, and *The Songcatcher*. She will be discussing her Ballad novels and the crafting of her novels.

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, we had our Holiday Hoopla event, with 43 people participating in cookie decorating. Santa Claus stopped by to take photos with 65 children and families. In January, we kicked off our Wellness Book Club series that is co-sponsored by the Town of Christiansburg Parks and Recreation Department. We also enjoyed games with teens and tweens in our Winter Gaming and Smash Brothers Tournament.

We are very excited for our upcoming programming for the spring and summer. We will be hosting our 5th An-

The Blacksburg Library was chosen as an exhibit site for **Strong Men & Women** in Virginia History, 2020 from the Library of Virginia. This exhibit arrives on April 27 and will be here through June 12. Strong Men & Women celebrates seven African Americans for their contributions to the commonwealth, one of whom is a member of the Montgomery County School Board, Penny J. Franklin. We hope to have Ms. Franklin with us to speak about her life, her work, and her passions. Stay tuned for more!

These are just a few highlights. There's always so much to do at your library, and you, our Friends, make much of it possible. Thank you!! In appreciation,

By Monena Hall (Branch Supervisor)



nual **Music on the Lawn** series through the generous support of the Friends. Mark your calendars now! 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 2020 series is as follows.

- May 2nd – The Rag Top
- June 13th – Haze & Dacey
- July 18th – You Knew Me When
- August 15th – Mac Traynham
- September 12th – Andy & Judy Daigle

Thank you so much for your continued support!

By Salena Sullivan (Branch Supervisor)

Branch Updates Cont'd

MEADOWBROOK | Come out for the **EastMont Garden Day & Tractor/Lawn Mower Show**, Saturday, May 2, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Meadowbrook Library, Shawsville. Join us for Garden Day in the courtyard of the Meadowbrook Center. We'll have perennials & vegetable plants for sale; free tomato plants to grow for the Tomato Festival; arts and crafts booths; a yard sale sponsored by VFW 4920 & Linc Letter; music by various groups; food; Friends of the Library book sale; free craft activities for kids courtesy of Meadowbrook

Public Library; free book appraisals (so bring any collectible or old books); and much more! This event is co-sponsored by EastMont Garden Club. **Tractor/Lawn Mower Show** Sponsored by Meadowbrook Public Library. Prizes will be awarded for people's choice, *most original and most unique riding lawn mower*. If you would like to enter your tractor or lawn mower please call the library at 268-1964 for more details.

By Cindy Minnick (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 in 2020. Each has contributed \$200 or more as named sponsors of the Summer Reading Program or the Garden Tour.

both the Summer Garden Tour and Summer Reading Program.

Also the **Van Tyne Family** for their sponsorship of

Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club

With the simple motto of " We Serve "



National Bankshares

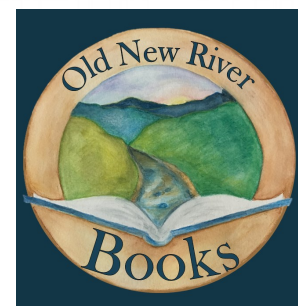


Rainbow Riders
childcare center



Brown Insurance

CAPONE'S
JEWELRY



Become a Volunteer

As the articles in this newsletter illustrate, the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Friends group has sponsored programs with visiting authors, library collection enhancement, startup collection, improvements to library community rooms and entry ways, toys for children, coffee service, used book drop offs and sales, poetry readings, programs on local history, staff appreciation events, summer reading program events, accessible computer station, and many more projects to help keep our libraries strong and serving the whole community.

We're always looking for volunteers to help make these wonderful offerings available. Friends of the Library meetings are held monthly. If you are interested in learning more about the Friends, joining us at the meeting is a great way to get involved. Meetings are usually the third Tuesday of each month. All are welcome. Feel free to contact us for more information or sign up at mfrlfriends.org/wp/become-a-friend-renew/.



Friends in Montgomery County: over a hundred of our members have already renewed for 2020. Have you?
Please check your mailing label.
If your mailing label includes the line "Renewed through 2020" or if you've already done so, please disregard.