

Library News | Spring 2021

From the Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library



The Garden Tour Is Back!

The 25th Anniversary Garden Tour will be Saturday, July 10, from 9:00-5:00, rain or shine. Plan now to visit these five lovely gardens, all within the town of Blacksburg:

- *Janet and Gary Buss—901 Draper Rd. SW*
- *Linda and Jack Davis—604 Preston Ave.*
- *Jana and Stephen Doyle—500 Skyview Dr.*
- *Phyllis and Doug Garnett-Deakin—404 Dunton Dr.*

- *Mary Ann Hansen and Andy Roberts—307 Eakin St. SW*

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Calendar

May Friday 28	June Saturday 12	Monthly Each Monday & Thursday	Monthly 2nd & 4th Tuesday	Monthly 2nd Saturday
Outdoor Book Sale Blacksburg 10am—weather permitting	Outdoor Book Sale Floyd 10am—weather permitting	Floyd Moves It! Jessie Peterman / each Monday & Thursday 11am	Ramblin' Readers walk & read club, every 2nd & 4th Tuesday Jessie Peterman, 11am	Community Conversations Jessie Peterman/2nd Saturday, 1pm

General News

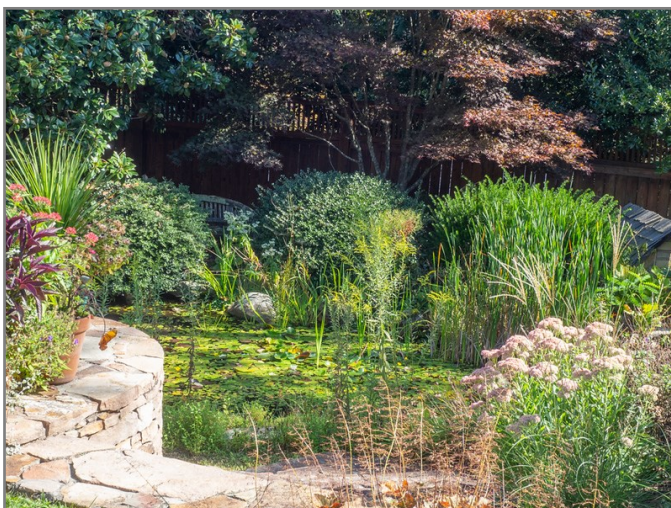
[continued from page 1] Nearby points of interest to visit at no charge are the Hahn Horticulture Garden, the Alexander Black House, and BRAA Art Space @ the Artful Lawyer.

Tickets will be available for \$15 on June 1 at MFRL libraries—Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Jessie Peterman, and Meadowbrook—as well as at Radford and Salem libraries. Tickets may also be purchased at any garden the day of the tour. This year, you can also buy tickets online starting June 1 from our website:

www.newrivervalleygardentour.org. (The day of the tour, bring your emailed receipt to any garden to exchange for a printed ticket and map.)

For a preview, check out photos of this year's gardens on the same website.

Frieda Bostian (Garden Tour Committee)



If you haven't renewed your *Individual* or *Family Membership* with the Friends group, please do so here:

<http://www.mfrlfriends.org/wp/become-a-friend-renew/>

General News Cont'd

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK | MFRL Mobile Unit: Connecting with People, Where the People Are

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library has a new mobile unit! This 2021 Mercedes Benz Sprinter Van continues the legacy of MFRL's previous bookmobiles and traveling libraries, and will provide a platform for us to bring our library services out to where the community's needs are. Many times we don't think of it as we drive around the NRV, but transportation is a barrier to many of our neighbors when they try and access public services. Though the library works hard at our four locations, and makes many outreach visits to senior residences and day care settings, the new mobile unit will open up new opportunities to reach out.

When the federal CARES Act passed in 2020 to provide pandemic relief, MFRL leadership requested funding through Montgomery County government to purchase this mobile unit. With Montgomery County on board, we identified a vendor, Mathews Specialty Vehicles of Greensboro, who could meet the CARES Act deadlines and conditions in August. The finances and requirements were daunting, and there was a week at the end of 2020 when it appeared that the funding was going to evaporate if the van wasn't delivered by December 30. Fortunately, Congress and the White House extended the deadline just in time. This gave time for Mathews to complete our beautiful, state-of-the-art vehicle, even with many challenges on their end in the supply chain due to COVID.

Chris Elledge, the Library's IT Head, and the IT staff

are currently outfitting the mobile unit with the computing and networking technology we will need as we traverse Montgomery and Floyd Counties. We are ordering books and other material specifically to serve our new customers out on the road, and developing schedules and routing and publicity.

As we plan what locations to serve, we are focusing on five target areas: (1) geographically-remote areas; (2) communities/areas that may be underserved due to low income; (3) senior communities; (4) congregate settings for youth such as day care, after-school programs, and schools; and (5) events such as fairs, festivals and parades. For summer season 2021, we'll focus mostly on targets 1, 2, and 5, and look forward to serving the folks at targets 3 and 4 on regular schedules in the fall, when, we hope, COVID-19 restrictions will be mostly a memory.

At each stop we will share books and other material, provide Wi-Fi access, and engage with the folks who attend to see what other services and resources we can provide. Already we have a list of partners that range from parks to post offices to apartment complexes to trailer parks, with more to come. We are hoping to be ready to be on the road in mid-June, and to have an official ribbon cutting at Christiansburg Library shortly thereafter.

All the staff are very excited about the mobile unit and the many ways it will help us reach out in the community. Look for more information in the weeks to come!

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New MRFL Mobile Unit



Before-Times...

General News Cont'd

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK CONT'D |

SPOTLIGHT: MFRL Mobile Unit and Sock Monkey by Cece Bell

The MFRL Mobile Unit features Sock Monkey! Sock Monkey is a character from a series of children's books by Montgomery County author and artist Cece Bell. Sock Monkey is a friendly, happy character who has been featured on MFRL's children's library card. Ms. Bell won the Newberry Medal Honor and the Eisner Award for her book *El Deafo*. We are grateful to Cece Bell and Candlewick Press for permission to use the Sock Monkey art on our mobile unit.

SPOTLIGHT: Summer Reading and Summer Feeding on the Road

In partnership with Feeding Southwest Virginia, many

of the stops our mobile unit will make this summer will have something besides welcoming staff, and great books. We will also be bringing summer meals and healthy snacks to children and teens on the van. Without access to school breakfast and lunch programs, children and teens in our community may miss out on nutrition they need. With their experience running the Summer Backpack program at Meadowbrook Library for the past few years, Meadowbrook Branch Manager, Cindy Minnick, and her team are leading the effort to expand on our successful summer feeding programs to our new mobile unit stops. The food will attract readers; or will the books attract eaters? Time will tell but this seems like a definition of a win/win!

Karim Khan (Library Director)



ADULT SUMMER READING PROGRAM | June 1—July 7. The Adult Summer Reading Program Tails & Tales will begin on June 1. Come into the library, sign up and receive a reading log and book mark to get started. There will be weekly prizes as well as a grand prize for each library.

The Adult Summer Reading Program is sponsored by our Friends of the Library. Come join us and Happy Reading!

Linda Spivey (Library Outreach & PR Coordinator)



Branch Updates

FLOYD | Hello Friends, we are open and ready to welcome people back into the library! Curbside Service is still available but if you want to come inside, please do!

Ongoing Programs at the Library

Family Art Take & Makes – Each month kids can take home craft kit, learn about an artist, and explore their artistic nature with a craft themed after the monthly artist's style.

Take & Make Crafts – Each week we'll have a new craft activity for kids to take home and make.

Rambling Readers – Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 11:00 am – Come for a walk and talk about what you're reading. This is a casual book club that incorporates a little physical activity. During the course of a roughly 2 mile walk, we'll talk about books we're enjoying.

Community Conversations – Community Conversations offers a safe format to listen to and learn about the opinions of others in our community. It's an opportunity to discover shared interests, intentions and goals and to leave behind assumptions, debates, and judgments. Based on conversations and guidelines developed by Living Room Conversations (<https://livingroomconversations.org>), these conversations pro-

vide a guided method for diverse members of the community to engage in intentional conversation about specific and impactful issues. This program takes place in person in a small group format. Email iverostko@mfrl.org to reserve your place. Space for this program is limited. Upcoming topics include *Forgiveness* and *Social Equity*. This program usually takes place on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 1:00 pm.

Floyd Moves It! - It's time to get moving! Join us as we get active with an American Heart Association walking workout. Space is limited to 15 participants and we ask that you wear a mask. This low impact aerobic workout is suitable for all levels of activity. Every Monday and Thursday at 11:00 am.

Floyd Friends of the Library will be holding an outdoor **book sale** on Saturday, June 12th. Rain date would be Saturday, June 26th. Any members who are interested can contact Joann or Lisa at the library.

The **Floyd Friends Library** meets quarterly. Our upcoming meetings will be on July 8th and on October 14th. Meetings start at 3:30.

Joann Verostko (Branch Supervisor)



Branch Updates Cont'd

BLACKSBURG | Hello Friends! We are open and it feels great to see so many friendly faces.

Our outdoor book sale has been enormously popular and so easy to set up. Doing the book sales outside and on carts means we can work all month on organizing the books, then roll them out to the parking lot for shopping. The March book sale made a whopping \$1100 in 6 hours, and we hope to keep doing them monthly. We are alternating between the last Friday and the last Saturday of the month, so the **April book sale** will take place on Saturday 4/24 and the **May book sale** will take place on Friday, May 28th.

Our outdoor craft supply swap on April 17 had 17 grateful crafters stop by and take supplies. Virtual chair yoga in February, March, and April had a dedicated following of two or three people. We hosted two virtual embroidery programs, one in February, one in April, and those

were well attended. We continue to hold bookclubs virtually, but will be transitioning them to a hybrid online and in-person as we move into May.

Family READS, our family literacy and English Language Learning (ELL) series partnering with the Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley, has been rebooted for COVID times. We are putting together book and craft kits for each child in the family. LVNRV volunteers will then deliver these kits to participating families' homes (contactless) and the tutor and families will work through the kits together increasing parent's comfort with English and with reading to their children. We helped four families with their English language skills in February and March, and another family has started the program in April.

Come visit us and say hi! We would love to see you!

Monena Hall (Branch Supervisor)

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! |

The following generous donors are sponsoring our major events in 2021.

Summer Garden Tour

Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club

Bonomo's

Capone's Jewelry

Crow's Nest Greenhouses

Don and Carolyn Rude

Old New River Books

Shelter Alternatives

Summer Reading Program

Collision Plus

Don and Carolyn Rude

McMillion and McMillion

National Bankshares

Old New River Books

Rainbow Riders

Ellen Hall (President, Montgomery County Friends)



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

Don and Caroline Rude



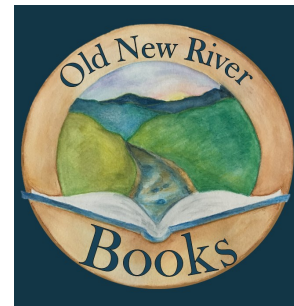
Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club

With the simple motto of " We Serve "



McMILLION & McMILLION, PC
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

CAPONE'S
JEWELRY



Crow's Nest Greenhouses



Rainbow Riders
childcare center