

# Library News | Summer 2021

*From the Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library*

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## 25th Annual Garden Tour

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Visit five of the New River Valley's loveliest gardens  
Saturday, July 10, from 9 am-5 pm, rain or shine. Tickets (\$15) are now at MFRL libraries—Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Jessie Peterman, and Meadowbrook. The day of the tour, tickets (\$15) may be purchased at any of the gardens, which may be visited in any order. Tickets are also available from our website [www.newrivervalleygardentour.org](http://www.newrivervalleygardentour.org).

Please bring your email receipt to any garden to exchange it for a map and list of gardens.

The gardens on this year's tour are as follows:

*[continued on page 2]*

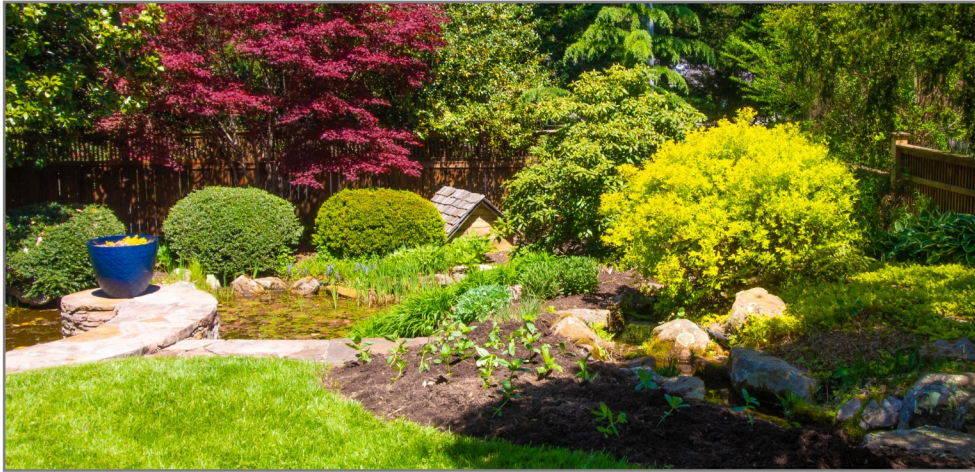
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## General News Cont'd

### **THE BUSS GARDEN** | 901 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg

Within this thoughtfully-structured landscape, creativity abounds in colors that both blend and pop. In front, small rock retaining walls frame beds of well-sized boxwood, laurel cherry, hosta, and heuchera that soften the stately brick façade. A side path leads to the crown jewel of this lovely garden: a water feature burbling atop the slope and cascading downhill into a small pond, then sideways into a larger one sporting an impressive lotus plant. Large natural rocks line the watercourse, with flowers and green plants tucked between them. In corners and elsewhere, curved beds feature handsome trees whose leaves contrast artfully, from red to spring green. A sinuous dry-stack retaining wall attractively terraces the steep back slope. Throughout, numerous colorful annuals in pots and beds add even more cheer to this gracious space.



### **THE DAVIS GARDEN** | 604 Preston Ave, Blacksburg

Traditional and contemporary features blend to form the delightful garden that surrounds this classic foursquare house. In front, mature shrubs, with corner beds of colorful perennial lilies and bright annuals, give way to side interests of new or refreshed beds of rhododendron, azaleas, and multiple flowers. Through the side gate a beguiling private back world emerges. Multi-level connected decks appear: one features a metal pergola covered with wisteria framed by a curved brick wall, while another has glass side panels for privacy. A magnificent 400-year-old white oak overarches this area, with one metal-braced branch supporting children's swings. The back garden is a happy mixture of Solomon's seal, ostrich ferns, hostas, and other plants surrounding a meandering pinestraw path, interspersed with pots of color and statuary. Raised beds for veggies and herbs soak up sunshine in this inspired mix of old and new.





## General News Cont'd

### **THE DOYLE GARDEN** | 500 Skyview Dr, Blacksburg

The owners, one of whom “just loves dirt” and “old stuff,” have invested 20 years in producing this charming spot that combines old trees, new beds, thoughtful hardscape, and an interesting variety of trees and plants. Leading up to the Craftsman-style, solarized bungalow, a straight walkway is surrounded by balanced curved beds of herbs and perennials extending across both the curb area and the cherry-laureled front of the house. As the spacious back garden slopes downward, lush color draws attention to more large curved beds, with plantings ranging from viburnum, Virginia sweetspire, and serviceberry to wood hyacinths and blueberries. The latest feature is a handsome upper deck with an angled sunsail. To one side, a stylish salvaged iron gate opens to fenced veggie beds, with mixed trees higher on the slope. This friendly garden is suffused with a welcoming ambiance.



### **THE GARNETT-DEAKIN GARDEN** | 404 Dunton Dr, Blacksburg

Recently brought to new life, this solar-paneled house and its surrounding garden invite outdoor living. A curved brick walkway and a stylish ramp both lead to the front porch, where a ceiling fan and comfortable seating suggest lingering amidst containers of lovely flowers. Large beds of shrubs like ninebark and several varieties of hosta curve around the front and corner lot, with a handsome sycamore in the side yard. Past raised vegetable beds, a Craftsman-style carport leads to a fenced back garden. Just inside the gate, a stone dog stands sentinel to an attractive hardscape lower patio, with steps leading to an upper covered patio and full outdoor kitchen and fire pit. A soothing water feature is surrounded by seasonal flowers like phlox. Even the garden house has a porch, while stone pavers make berry-picking easy in this three-season garden.



## General News Cont'd

### THE HANSEN/ROBERTS GARDEN | 307 Eakin St SW, Blacksburg

Embedded in a corner lot, this wonderful marriage of noteworthy plantings and creative stonework results from ten years of removing unproductive stock and bringing in interesting, healthy specimens. The center third of a large forsythia hedge in back remains for privacy, but the sides have morphed into a Zen-like yard-nook on the right and an inviting area on the left mixing rock sculptures, perennials, and a Ruby Falls redbud. Ever-expanding beds feature trees such as fringe tree, hybrid English oak, and a lovely native black gum whose subtle blooms attract an astounding number of pollinators. Perennials like columbine, rue, and golden star thrive throughout, and annuals in handsome pots add more color to the mix. Well-constructed veggie beds flourish in a sunny spot, and a narrow side bed features climbing hydrangea, a pendula spruce, and other garden delights.



*By Frieda Bostian & Esther Davis (Montgomery Friends)*

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS!** | Also, as in years past, **beautiful full-color notecards featuring this year's gardens will be for sale.** They may be purchased at the Hansen/Roberts garden for \$10 a package, which includes 5 cards and envelopes.

Please also enjoy these Points of Interest in Blacksburg. No ticket is needed.

- The [Alexander Black House and Cultural Center](#), 204 Draper Rd. SW. Featuring sunflower artist Can-

dace Monaghan in the gallery. 10 am until 4 pm.

- The [BRAA Art Space](#) @The Artful Lawyer, 318 N. Main St. Your ticket will earn you a 10% discount on art the day of the tour. 10 am until 4 pm.
- The [Blacksburg Farmers Market](#), 108 W. Roanoke St. 8 until 2 pm. Food trucks on site until 2 pm.
- The [Hahn Horticulture Garden](#), 200 Garden Lane, VT campus. Food truck on site starting at 11 am.

*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**



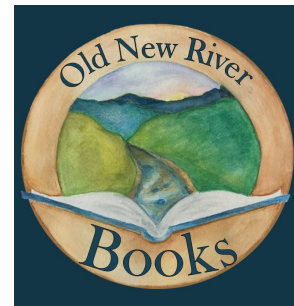
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