

# Library News | Spring 2022

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

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## Garden Tour: Save the Date

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Dear Friends,

**The 26th Anniversary Garden Tour will be Saturday, July 9, from 9:00 - 5:00, rain or shine.** Plan now to visit six lovely gardens, all within Ellett Valley and the town of Blacksburg. Check out photos of this year's gardens at our website:

[www.newrivervalleygardentour.org](http://www.newrivervalleygardentour.org)

Tickets will be available for \$15 on June 1 at MFRL libraries—Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Jessie Peterman, and Meadowbrook. Tickets may also be purchased at any garden the day of the tour.

You may also buy tickets online starting June 1 at the

above website. The day of the tour, bring your emailed receipt to any garden to exchange for your printed tickets, brochure, and map. Note: online sales will be closed at 5:00 pm on Friday, July 8.

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# Calendar

Monthly	Monthly	March	March	April	July
2nd Thursday	Every Monday & Thursday	Thursday 17	Thursday 24	Friday 27	Saturday 9
Book Club   Jessie Peterman, 2pm	Floyd Moves It! walking workout   Jessie Peterman, 11am	Workshop with Michelle Ramos, PhD   Blacksburg	Adulting 101: <i>How To Not Go Broke</i>   Blacksburg	Fill a Bag Book Sale   Blacksburg 10am-4pm (10-11 early access for Friends)	26th Annual NRV Garden Tour   Blacksburg & Ellett Valley, 9-5pm

## Branch Updates

**FLOYD** | Hello Friends,

Floyd Friends held their annual membership drive in January adding several new members and many membership renewals. The DMV has been bringing their *DMV Connect* to the library on a monthly basis providing the local Floyd community with vehicular services right here in town. And the Red Cross continues to join us for regular blood drives. Our next one will be Friday, March 18th from 12:30-5:30. Native Plant expert, Ian Caton of Wood Thrush Native Plant Nursery, was here in January to give a very well-attended talk on growing native plants. It was a fascinating and inspiring talk.

*Ongoing Programs at the Library*

**Talking About Books** – our book club meets the second Thursday of each month at 2:00 pm for a lively discussion. Upcoming books are: *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris, *The Moon is Low* by Nadia Hashimi, and

*The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave 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.

**Floyd Moves It!** – It's time to get moving! Join us as we get active with an American Heart Association walking workout. This low impact aerobic workout is suitable for all levels of activity. Every Monday and Thursday at 11:00 am.

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

*Joann Verostko (Branch Manager)*

**BLACKSBURG** | Hello to our wonderful Friends! We hope you have stopped by and enjoyed our displays and our quiet, friendly atmosphere.

In February, the Blacksburg Library partnered with the Christiansburg Institute to host a Community History Harvest. CI brought digitization equipment in order to

help community members preserve their family memories, while also collecting material for the CI Museum collections. 15 people came and shared 37 artifacts with the museum curators.

*[...continued on page 5]*

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

### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK | Mobile Library Finds Library Users Where they Live and Play

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library (MFRL) has a new mobile library! This Mercedes Sprinter Van continues the legacy of MFRL's previous bookmobiles and traveling libraries, and provides a platform to bring our library services out to the community. The Mobile Library hit the road beginning Tuesday, June 22, 2021.

For the 2021 Summer Season, the Mobile Library visited 24 locations throughout Montgomery and Floyd Counties, on a three-week cycle. In Fall, we visited 17 locations on a three week cycle; and for the Winter Season now underway, we maintain a 19-stop, 3-week schedule. At each stop MFRL provides books and other material for check out, Wi-Fi access, printing from patrons' mobile devices, and assistance with visitor questions. Patrons learn how to eBooks and eAudios, and receive help requesting items that are on the shelves of library branches.

Transportation to the four branches of our library can be a challenge for many people, whether they live further out, don't have a car, or just have tight schedules. Our Mobile Library gives the library new ways to reach out with the variety of services we offer—from kids' picture books to help with résumés and job applications. Many people in Montgomery and Floyd remember the bookmobiles that served the community in the past; we have planned and delivered routes and services that will build on that history of friendly, professional service.

The Mobile Library will plan its routes to serve five targets: geographically-remote areas, communities with economic challenges, congregate living settings for adults, school and youth groups, and community event pop-ups. Among the community events brightened by the Mobile Library this year are Falling Branch Elemen-



tary Thanksgiving Fest, Touch a Truck, Heritage Day, Christiansburg Christmas Parade, Wilderness Trails Festival, Blacksburg Community Truck Parade, Floyd 4H Festival, and frequent appearances at the Christiansburg Farmers Market.

So far, the busiest regular stops are those with a lot of people nearby, especially children. People come running when the Mobile Library pulls up everywhere, but our four biggest stops are the apartment communities at Christiansburg Bluff and Linden Green, and the mobile

home communities of Hollins Estates and Mountain Creek. We also have some regular stops that serve institutions such as Skyline Nursing and Rehabilitation in Floyd. We are grateful to the businesses, post offices, schools and other spots that have hosted Mobile Library stops so far.

Any Friend who has an idea of places that the Mobile Library should stop, or new things the Mobile Library can do to reach out to our community, please let us know by emailing the library from the link at <https://www.mfml.org/contact.php>. See you on the road!

*Karim Khan (Library Director)*





## General News Cont'd

### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY SCHOLARSHIP |

Among the many great things the money contributed and raised by the Friends of the Library group provides the community is a \$1000 scholarship for any full- or part-time employee of the library system pursuing a degree in Library Science.

We're pleased to announce that the 2022 scholarship award was recently granted to Terra Hanks, a specialist at the Meadowbrook branch. She was kind enough to answer a few questions about the importance of the award:

*What drew you to the library for a career?*

After teaching for several years, I realized that working in a library would be a better fit for me. I love the library environment and just being around books all day.

*How might patrons notice you or your role/contributions in the library?*

At Meadowbrook, I do a lot of passive or "self-directed" activities that hopefully encourage patrons to interact a bit when they come to the library, or take something with them that they weren't expecting when they came in. Some examples were a chocolate bar personality test, and voting for your favorite ice cream flavor last summer. For March, I'm putting together a kit with a game based on Wordle for patrons to play at home. I also send out our weekly email newsletter to keep patrons updated on upcoming programs.

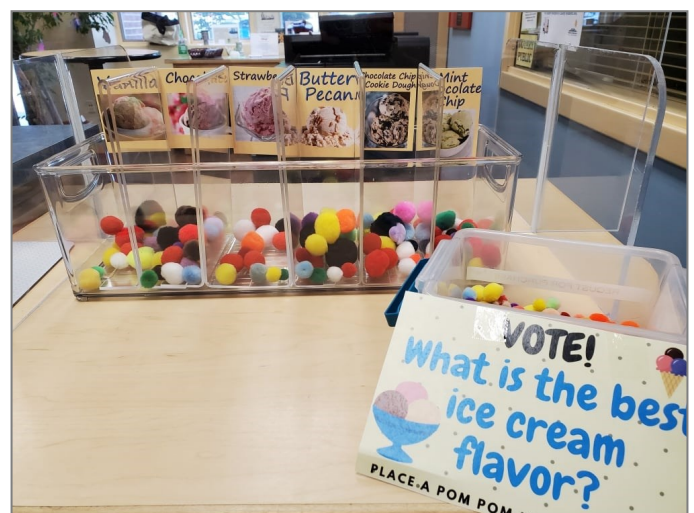
*What projects are you working on for this Spring that excite you?*

I am really excited to start preparing for the Summer Reading Program. The theme this year will be "Oceans of Possibilities," and I've had some fun ideas for decorating the library. Last summer, I worked with my talented co-worker, Cassidy, to create a sidewalk obstacle course in the courtyard. We are beginning to plan another sidewalk obstacle course with the Summer Reading Program theme incorporated.

*Why should others consider pursuing a graduate degree in Library Science?*

I absolutely love my job at Meadowbrook Library. The one complaint I have is that my job is only part-time, which is difficult on me financially. My motivation, and what would motivate most people to get a degree in Library Science, is to develop the knowledge and skills that are typically required for a full-time library position with benefits.

*Ken Vaughan (Newsletter Editor)*



## Branch Updates Cont'd

### BLACKSBURG | *[continued from page 2]*

In partnership with the School of Performing Arts at Virginia Tech, the Blacksburg Library hosted “Art, Community, and Social Health,” a series of talks & workshops by nationally recognized artists and thought leaders on the power and practice of art and culture as essential elements of healthy communities. The first of three sessions featured Mark Valdez who is a director, writer, and cultural organizer who partners with communities, organizations, civic institutions, and others, using theater and creative tools to address community needs and to lift up community voices and stories. The session on **March 17** will feature Michelle Ramos, who is a licensed attorney with a PhD in Cultural Psychology. Ms. Ramos has significant organizing experience and has committed her career to serving communities and individuals adversely impacted by issues of race, gender, disability, class, socioeconomics, inequitable laws and systemic oppression.

Blacksburg Library has partnered with Sustainable Blacksburg to host a series of Lunch and Learn sessions.

Topics range from sustainable volunteer opportunities to getting your garden ready for planting (March 2022) and sustainable holiday wrapping. Keep an eye on our programming calendar for more information.

We will be hosting a series of hybrid programs called *Adulting 101*. Individual programs will focus on *How to Cook without Burning Down Your House* on **March 10**, and *How to Not Go Broke* with New York Life Financial Representative Lisa Van Wickler on **March 24**. These programs are geared to new and emerging adults, 16-25, and the series will explore four different topics over four sessions.

The Quilting Party is partnering with the Blacksburg Library to hosting Quilting classes for kids. Each session will be two hours long. Participants are encouraged to bring their own machine if they have one, but all supplies will be provided by the Quilting Party. As of this writing, all 10 available slots are full for the March 26 session.

*Monena Hall (Branch Manager)*

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**BLACKSBURG LIBRARY BOOK SALE** | Friday, March 25, the Friends of the Library will host a book sale at the Blacksburg Library branch. **The sale runs from 10:00am to 4:00pm, with early access during the first hour (10-11) only for those with current Friends of the Library membership.**

Fill a grocery-size bag for \$5. Individual items are \$1 for hardbacks; \$.50 for paperback; and \$1 for CDs, Audio Books, and DVDs. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Library. Cash or check only please.

Membership sign up and renewals will be taken at the door for those wishing to do so at the sale to gain early access. Or you can *ensure* speedy entry by renewing your individual or family membership with the Friends group ahead of time here: <http://www.mfrlfriends.org/wp/become-a-friend-renew/> Early access to book sales at

all branches is a key, tangible benefit for you in exchange for your membership dollars.

*Ken Vaughan (Newsletter Editor)*





# 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 "

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