

# Library News | Spring 2024

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



Plein air artists from last year's Garden Tour.

Art from the 2023 NRV Garden Tour will be displayed at the Blacksburg Library from June through July.

## New River Valley Garden Tour: July 6, 2024

The Friends of the Library New River Valley Garden Tour will celebrate the 28<sup>th</sup> tour in 2024. This would not be possible without our dedicated FOL members that make the day a success. Mark your calendar for Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup> for this year's Garden Tour. All seven gardens are in Christiansburg.

At this time, the tour committee is reaching out for your assistance. We have three needs we are requesting at this point in our tour planning.

- **Musicians**
- **Plein air artists**
- **Rain barrel artists**



*[continued on page 2]*



# Garden Tour Cont'd

Needed for the Garden Tour:

- **Musicians:** add to the background ambiance during the tour, local musicians are encouraged to become involved by performing in one of the seven gardens on the day of the tour. You will be contacted by our music coordinator **Becky Hepler** to find that perfect spot for your talent.
- **Plein air artists:** (outdoor artists) bring their materials and set up at an enticing waterfall or scenic spot during the tour to create their masterpiece. **Teri Hoover** is our coordinator for day of tour artists.
- **Rain barrel artists:** there will be a raffle for winners' choice of one of three painted rain barrels. Our inaugural raffle in 2023 raised over \$700 in additional funds for the library. If you would like to be considered as one of the featured artists of a rain barrel, we'd love to celebrate your work. We will get the barrel to you.

Art from the 2023 NRV Garden Tour will be displayed at the Blacksburg Library from June through July.



To be considered for one of these positions, please contact the corresponding individual below.

**Musicians: Becky Hepler 540-239-2590**

bhepler@pemtrel.com

**Artists (in a garden day of tour): Teri Hoover 540-357-0117**

crystalirisphotos@gmail.com

**Artists (rain barrel): Lynn Brammer 540-449-6621**

lbrammer@vt.edu

*Lynn Brammer (FOL Garden Tour Committee Member)*

## Book Sales

The Friends of the Library had a used book sale at the Blacksburg library on Saturday, March 23. The sale earned over \$800 for the FOL in just 6 hours. A grateful thank you goes out to all the FOL and student volunteers for their hard work in making the sale a great success.

*Judy Rea (Blacksburg FOL Book Sale Rep.)*

The Christiansburg library will have its next book sale **Thursday, May 23rd - Saturday, May 25th**. Fill a plastic bag or bring your own bag to fill with all the books you can fit for only \$5. Proceeds benefit the Montgomery Friends of the Library.



# Branch Updates

**Blacksburg** | Hello Amazing Friends!

Now that I've been at the Blacksburg Library for three seasons (Summer, Winter, and Spring) I've had time to truly appreciate how amazing you all are throughout the year. I've met knowledgeable, committed Book Sale Friends, whose recent Bag Sale at the Blacksburg Library netted approximately \$835 for the Friends in just 6 hours for the public sale! I'm excited for the Garden Tour, which is heavily into the planning stage, and I am looking forward to seeing how I can be of service to the Garden Tour Friends this year!

I see the impact our Friends make in library programming every day. Family READS, our English Language Learning program in partnership with LNRV, reached approximately 10-12 families over the course of the Winter and Spring sessions. With your help, not only were we able to purchase craft supplies for weekly learning engagement activities for the children, but we were also able to provide food for the entire family to enjoy so they could focus on language learning and literacy activities.

We were able to bring the Mill Mountain Zoo to the library to conduct a Life Science program for children, which was specifically designed to meet SOL requirements. While it was promoted for Homeschool students, we asked the Zoo to come on a day that MCPS

students were out for a teacher work day. The program, attended by 60 people, focused on taxonomy and allowed the children to meet and interact with four different types of animals.

Fun (and Learning) events include our recent eclipse party, which had over 175 attendees (of all ages). Participants enjoyed eclipse-themed snacks, crafts, trivia, and entertainment while watching the live broadcast of the eclipse.

Did I mention author events? From our Poetry Reading and Author Talk for recently published authors from Virginia Tech to a special Storytime with local author Stacy Vaughn, we have events for all ages and interests, which meet the needs of our very diverse community. Recently published local author, Keith Hummel, gave an author talk at the library for his debut novel, *Immortal Red*. He will be returning to the library in July to do a writing workshop for kids and in October he will host a writing workshop for adults in preparation for NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) held every November.

You are amazing in your support for the Library! We are able to offer the depth and breadth of programs to our community because of your support. Thank you.

*Laura Dobbins (Branch Manager)*

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**Christiansburg** | The Christiansburg Library is continually grateful for the support of the Friends of the Library. Our Winter programs would not have been possible without it.

Santa returned this past holiday season and over 100 children and adults were able to give him their holiday wishes. In December, we held a bag book sale to raise funds for the FOL and we were able to raise over \$1300. Our next bag book sale will begin on Thursday, May 23 and run through Saturday, May 25.

Our Art Club for Homeschoolers has been very popular this spring. Our young artists learned about architec-

ture with the Eiffel Tower, quilting, and Alexander Calder and even made their own creations.

We look forward to our programming this summer, including Summer Reading, Music on the Lawn, and more. We hope to see you in the library soon.

*Salena Sullivan (Branch Manager)*

# General News

## Valuing Every Story: The New MFRL Digital News Archive

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library system has as one of our core values Valuing Every Story. We wish to sustain and develop evolving platforms for sharing, creating and preserving stories past, present and yet to come. That is part of having the facilities to hold our collection, the technologies that let people find and access materials in that collection, and the staff with the expertise and commitment to make sure people can find the stories they need and want. But we try to value stories in other ways also, and one is in the role of providing access to local history. Whether in books, periodicals or programming, we hope to keep available the stories of the persons who came before us in the New River Valley.

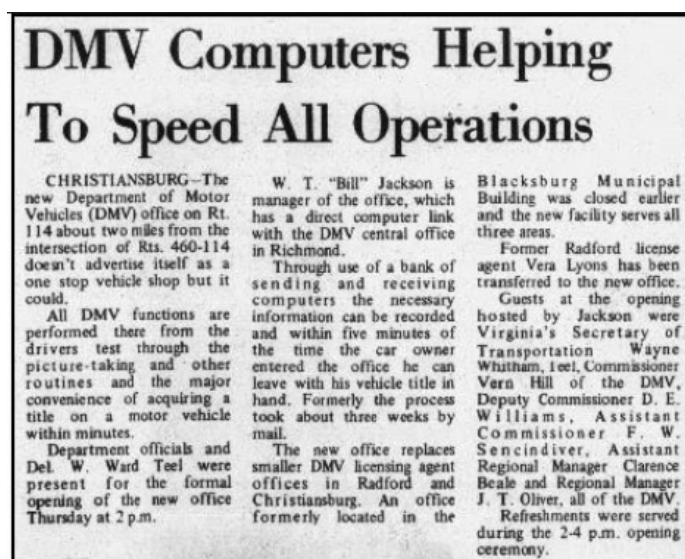
Thanks to the support of the Floyd County Library Building Fund Inc., we began our development of the MFRL Digital News Archive in 2019, planning for the digitization of the Floyd Press microfilm held at Jessie Peterman Memorial Library. The Floyd County part of the MFRL Digital News Archive has been useful to historians, genealogists and others researching 19th and 20th century Floyd since 2021. Now with the support of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Foundation, we have made available new digitized microfilm from the collection at Christiansburg Library.

Over 137 Montgomery County reels of microfilm were digitized by our partners at Advantage Archives, and now are available under our e-library heading on the library website, [mfrl.org](http://mfrl.org). Montgomery County newspaper titles include the *Montgomery News Messenger* and the *News Messenger*, and cover dates from 1950 through 2003. The full text and images from the newspapers are available, browsable by date, and searchable by keyword. There are built-in-tools to screen-grab, email, or save images or text. The new content amounts to over 180,000 newspaper page images and is a fascinating window into the life and progress of Montgomery County. Topics one can research can be as personal as a family

history, as historic as the growth of Virginia Tech, and as important as desegregation in the 1950's. As I often do to test out Virginia historical sources, I searched my Winchester, Virginia family name and quickly found a visit by my uncle, F.W. Sencindiver, to the grand opening of the Christiansburg DMV office in 1977. (Uncle Billy was Assistant Commissioner of the DMV in 1977). That office is of course now closed for renovation, but 47 years is not a bad run!

The Digital News Archive now contains about 88% of all the microfilm held at MFRL branches; as we work in the future, we hope to finish off the newspapers and also digitize some of the historical books we have that can be archived.

The thing about stories is you never know where they are going. But looking to history can help us know where the stories start.



Page 1 of the *News Messenger*, published in Christiansburg, Virginia on Tuesday, March 22nd 1977 from MFRL Digital News Archive...Found in the Community History Archive of The Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library

Karim Khan (MFRL Director)



# Calendar

## Blacksburg

**Kitchen Supply Swap**

**Blacksburg  
Community Room**

**Sat, April 27  
1-3pm**

## Christiansburg

**Intro to Homebuying**

**Christiansburg  
Community Room**

**Thurs, April 25  
6-7pm**

## Floyd

**Family Art Adventure:  
Planters from Recycled  
Material**

**Floyd Community Room**

**Mon, April 22  
3:30-5 pm**

## Meadowbrook

**Friends of the Library  
Two-Day Book Sale**

**Meadowbrook  
Community Room**

**Fri, May 3-Sat, May 4**

**Adult Art: Watercolor  
Flowers**

**Blacksburg  
Community Room**

**Mon, May 6  
6-7:30pm**

**American Red Cross  
Blood Drive**

**Christiansburg Library**

**Wed, May 1  
1-5pm**

**Friends of the Library  
Book Sale**

**Floyd Community  
Room**

**Fri, May 3-Sun, May 5**

**The Do's and Don't of  
Canning**

**Meadowbrook  
Community Room**

**Thurs, May 16  
6-8pm**

For more information on events, please visit MFRL's website at [www.mfrl.org](http://www.mfrl.org).



**Don't forget!**

**The NRV Garden Tour is  
Saturday, July 6, 2024.**

Like receiving the FOL Newsletter? To ensure you continue to receive the newsletter and stay up to date with FOL events and activities, be sure to renew your FOL membership. You can renew [online](#) or by filling out the paper form and returning to your local library.

# Thank You

Many Thanks to our Event and Program Sponsors | Friends of the Library are deeply appreciative of the following businesses and individuals for their significant support of upcoming 2024 library programs and events. Each has contributed \$200 or more as named sponsors of the Summer Reading Program or the Garden Tour.

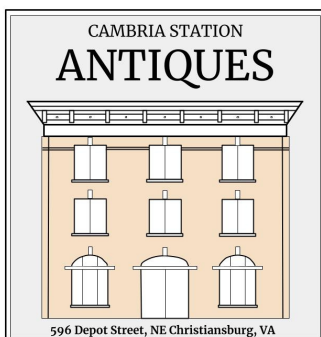
- Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club
- Bonomo's
- Cambria Station Antiques
- Capone's Jewelry
- Collision Plus
- Crow's Nest Greenhouses
- Exclusive Hair by Travis V.
- Juneberry Gardens
- McCoy Funeral Home
- McMillion and McMillion
- Rainbow Riders
- Carolyn Rude in memory of Don Rude
- Shelter Alternatives
- Vintage Cellar



CAPONE'S  
JEWELRY



Carolyn Rude in memory of Don Rude



**McMILLION & McMILLION, PC**  
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**Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club**  
With the simple motto of "We Serve"

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**Rainbow Riders**  
childcare center

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ALTERNATIVES, INC.  
DESIGN BUILD TEAM

**Fill out form online, then print:**

## **2024 MONTGOMERY COUNTY FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Membership year is January-December.

Dues received October 2023– December 2023 are good through 2024

New

Renewal

Date

First Name

Last Name

Address

City

Zip Code

Email

Phone

### **Suggested Membership Contribution:**

\$15 Individual

\$20 Family

Donation: \$

Contributions are tax deductible.

Make checks payable to:

Friends of MFRL

(Montgomery Floyd Regional Library)

Mail to:

125 Sheltman Street

Christiansburg, VA 24073

or bring to your nearest library branch.

### **We need your help with Friends Activities. Check below for volunteer opportunities.**

Membership Drive

Book Sales

Socials – bring refreshments

Garden Tour

Hospitality Committee

Membership Committee

At which library do you wish to volunteer?

Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Meadowbrook



<https://mfrlfriends.org/wp/join-us/>