

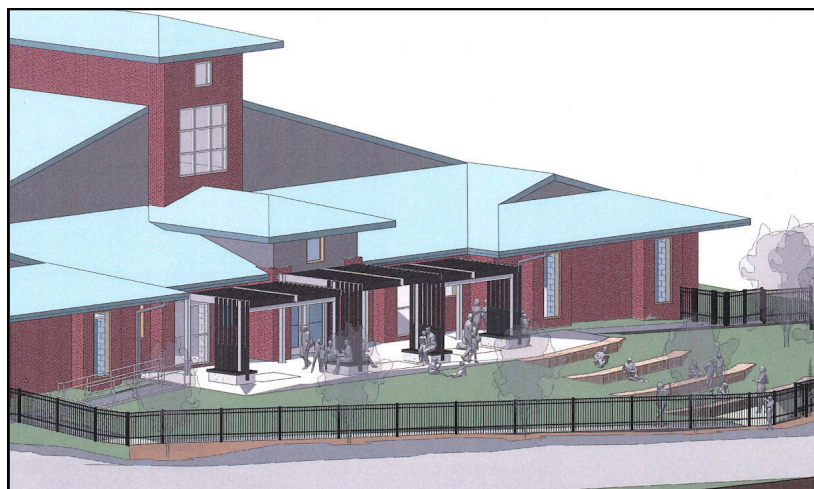
Library News | Fall 2024

From the Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library



Dessy Story Terrace Takes Shape at Blacksburg Library

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library is excited to complete improvements to the Draper Road side of the grounds at Blacksburg Library. This re-thinking of a disused entry space will offer patrons a space to sit outside and read, to engage in outdoor children’s activities, and to connect with nature while using the library. Though winter approaches, we are looking forward to making the Lee and Ray Dessy Story Terrace a lively outdoor space that will become a signature feature of the Blacksburg Library.



General News Cont'd



During the 2020-2021 pandemic, library staff noted that, unlike other branches, there was no usable outdoor space for programming available at Blacksburg Library. Meadowbrook and Christiansburg libraries could have some storytime programming even when closed; but Blacksburg's tight lot and many parking spaces were not suitable for kids to do anything but be traffic-aware. The Draper Road side lawn might be green and welcoming, but without fencing, it was not a safe place for groups of children –

there are just too many vehicles passing by. The library worked with the Town of Blacksburg to get an “emergency fence” in place for a number of programs in 2021 and 2022 – and we saw an opportunity.

So the library worked with Montgomery County to develop a plan to take this area and create an “outside room” – an area for children's storytime, reading for all ages, and other outdoor events and happenings. This plan included re-grading the area; a new perimeter wall with fencing and two gates; improvements to the existing fire escape pathway and accessibility; a children's amphitheater space, including stone seating area; enhanced patio seating area including a new slab, built-in benches and a shady superstructure; new plantings of shrubs, bushes and grasses that will be maintainable and attractive; and supporting electrical and plumbing. With support from the Board of Supervisors, this plan was incorporated into the county's Capital Improvement Plan for 2023-2027 and was funded by American Recovery Act funds.

After a deliberate process working with stakeholders from the county, Town of Blacksburg, and the state, construction began this summer. For a relatively small project, there was a delightful array of challenges and surprises. Did you know that Draper Road was once known as Water Street, and has a full-on creek running underneath it in a pipe? Or that architecturally, the disused Draper Road door of the library is actually considered the front door? Or that if you add outdoor capacity for people, you may have to adjust the number of bathrooms and water fountains inside accordingly? Nobody on our team did either! As we adapted our goals to match up with the possibilities the space and the rules permit, the terrace really started to take on a life of its own.



And now we're here! Major construction is complete and we are in a two week phase where we let the sod set. During this time, the library will work on completing signage for the code of conduct and the emergency gates, and develop a ribbon cutting plan for early November. With winter coming in, the first few months of the Dessy Story Terrace will not be its busiest, but in spring our new gem will be shining.

General News Cont'd

Outdoor storytime, messy STEM adventures, musical programs, book groups, and patrons sitting and reading are all coming up, and we welcome suggestions for programming, activities, and additional infrastructure. It has been a journey so far and I wish to express our thanks to Montgomery County's Board of Supervisors, to County Administrators Craig Meadows and Angie Hill, to Scott Woodrum and Ron Riquelmy of the Department of General Services, to the folks from Finance and Budget, and to our partners at Colley Architects and Extreme Concrete.

About Lee and Ray Dessy

Annabelle "Lee" Dessy and Raymond E. Dessy demonstrated their love and commitment to Blacksburg and the Blacksburg Library with a substantial bequest through their estate to the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Foundation to benefit the Blacksburg Library. The library is honored to be among the beneficiaries of the Raymond E. and Annabelle Dessy Trust, along with the Nature Conservancy in Virginia, the Newman Library at Virginia Tech, the VT Honors Colloquium, and the VT Honors Program. Ray Dessy joined the Chemistry Department at Virginia Tech in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in pharmacology and a doctoral degree in chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh. He was the first recipient of the Computers in Chemistry National Award from the American Chemical Society and the Senior Scientist Mentor Award from the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation. The Dessys were supporters of the library and their bequest provides an enduring legacy that will promote learning, knowledge and community in the future.

Karim Khan, MFRL Director

2024 Summer Reading Program

"Adventure Begins at Your Library" was the Summer Reading Program theme for this year. We had a bustling summer with 1,001 children signed up. We saw an increase in teens signing up with 297 teens. We offered 43 children and teen Summer Reading Programs across the system. New this year was The Wolf Trap Institute that encouraged audience members to move as various rainforest animals. Also new to our library was the Shepard Shakespeare Theater, who delighted audiences with an interactive performance of Hamlet and the Pirates. Returning this year was the Larsen's Amazing World of Reptiles, who wowed audiences with an array of reptiles that patrons could pet and hold after the show. We wrapped up our Summer Reading Program with a Silent Disco for all ages.



General News Cont'd

Some may wonder why we make such a big deal about the success of our Summer Reading Program. Ask any school teacher and they will say that “summer slump” is a well-known setback to a child’s literacy development. By incenting children to read during their vacation, we help them to keep their reading skills sharpened, thereby reducing the amount of remedial work needed the following term.

Many thanks to our sponsors and to our wonderful Montgomery and Floyd Friends of the Library for funding the Summer Reading Program and giving the youth in the community access to ongoing entertainment and educational events at MFRL throughout the summer!

Sarah Pahl, MFRL Youth Services Manager

Book Sales

Thanks to the generous book donations from our communities and the ever-cheerful and hard-working volunteers at each of our local libraries, book sales have proven to be a financial success for Friends of the Library. All the money from book sales goes directly to funding programs at the Meadowbrook, Christiansburg, and Blacksburg libraries.

Since June 1st, total book sales are equal to more than \$5,000. Meadowbrook has sold more than \$300 worth of books, CD’s, and DVD’s; Christiansburg had a very successful book sale this summer and has sold more than \$2,070 of the aforementioned items; and Blacksburg has been selling items at an average of \$192 dollars per week. One interesting fact I learned from looking over the weekly sales statistics meticulously maintained by the staff at the Blacksburg branch is that people love using their Book Sale Bucks!

Blacksburg is holding its big fall sale on Saturday, November 16th from 10am-4pm with a FOL members only sale the day before from 4-5 (Friday the 15th). Please come prepared with your bags, cash or checks, and you will be sure to find enough books to occupy you through the winter months.

Piper Durrell, Secretary of Montgomery County Friends of the Library

Garden Tour Success

We are pleased to report that the 2024 Garden Tour netted \$8,466! How did this happen?

- The garden greeters sold \$2,915 dollars worth of tickets at their gardens.
- Library staff made \$2,685 in ticket sales at their libraries.
- An additional \$1,125 came in through online ticket sales.
- Business sponsors contributed \$2,700 to cover expenses.

Library director, Karim Khan, will join the Friends of the Library Board at their November meeting to present the programming needs of the library system for the coming year. The money raised at the Garden Tour will be a significant piece of the Friends total financial support of the library. The rest comes from book sales plus your membership dues and generous donations. Thank you, one and all!

Ellen Hall, President of Montgomery County Friends of the Library

General News Cont'd

Join Friends of the MFRL and Become an Advocate for Your Local Library!

We are a nonprofit, volunteer organization comprised of book and library lovers who donate their time and funds to support our local libraries. Our Friends group funds the Summer Reading Programs, special children's programs, author talks, our annual garden tour, scholarships for library staff and needs not met in the normal operating budget.

How you can help:

- Join Friends using our membership form
- Volunteer for one of our committees
- Donate books for our book sales
- Purchase books at our big book sale events and at our continuous book sales in every library

As a member you will be able to shop early at all book sales events! Encourage others to join us and to shop at our continuous book sales!

Linda Greaver, Membership Committee for Montgomery County Friends of the Library

Calendar

Kids Coding Club

Blacksburg

Best for ages 8-12.

Sun, Nov 3rd

Medicare 101

Christiansburg

Tues, Nov 12th

FOL Two-Day Book Sale

Meadowbrook

November 1-2

Wicked Party

Wizard of Oz themed crafts and snacks and more. All ages.

Floyd

Fri, Nov 1st

Fall for Fine Arts

Blacksburg

Recommended ages 13+

Thurs, Nov 7th

Dino Friday: Dino-Scape Lantern

Christiansburg

Fri, Nov 15th

Color and Chill

Meadowbrook

Tues, Nov 12th

Kitchen Supply Swap

Floyd

Sat, Nov 9th

For more information on events, please visit the library's website at www.mfml.org

Fill out form online, then print:

2025 MONTGOMERY COUNTY FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership year is January-December.

Dues received October 2024– December 2024 are good through 2025

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/>