Spring Sale 2020 Postponed

The Friends of the Library annual Spring Book Sale has been postponed. At our April board meeting, with another month of information in our hands, we will determine whether or not we can reschedule for later in the year.

This decision was made for the safety of the community, Friends volunteers, and in keeping with best practices and guidance on social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

All JMRL branches and the Friends of the Library office are closed to the public at this time.

The Friends of the Library supports JMRL in many ways, including programming for children, teens, and adults; providing additional funds for each branch library’s individual needs; and large projects such as the Nelson branch expansion (see below). Most of that financial support for JMRL comes from the annual Book Sales, but your membership dues and donations are also important. We want to continue to support our excellent public library system and welcome your help in this difficult period.

Please visit jmrlfriends.org to learn how you can support both the Friends and the Library during this loss of activity.

Gordon Avenue and Nancy Swygert

This winter work was begun to memorialize the nearly $1 million bequest JMRL and the Friends of the Library received in 2018 from the estate of Nancy Swygert, longtime Gordon Avenue branch patron.

Although everyone knew Swygert viewed the library as a treasured institution, nobody foresaw her making a donation on this scale. A staunch environmentalist and lover of the outdoors, Swygert took full advantage of the resources JMRL offers.

JMRL is memorializing Swygert at the Gordon Avenue branch with a collection of science and nature books as well as this landscaping project in her name.

When you are here for our next sale, take some time out from your shopping and enjoy the relative calm of the garden on the new benches tucked away behind the Nancy Swygert Gate!
Thanks to the commitment of Nelson County, the expansion of Nelson Memorial Library is well-underway. The Grow Nelson Library community group is working diligently to secure funds to complete the project by providing books, computers, media equipment, and other items essential to creating a vibrant community hub. The Friends of the Library helped jumpstart the fund drive with a $30,000 contribution, and the Friends Family of Funds at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation (CACF) gave $100,000.

The group is closer to reaching their $500,000 goal with The Perry Foundation’s generous award of a challenge grant of $100,000. In order to receive the $100,000 from the Perry Foundation, Grow Nelson Library must raise $150,000 by July 2020, and is asking for the community’s support to make this happen.

Every donation counts!

Donations are tax exempt and can be made at www.grownelsonlibrary.org, dropped off at the Nelson Memorial Library (all JMRL branches closed through March), or by check to the Nelson Memorial Library Fund (Nelson Memorial Library, PO Box 321, Lovingston, Virginia 22949).

Link to the most recent video update (January 2020) about the Nelson Memorial Library expansion: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-X8qJu6mdw

To our Friends and members we wish health and security in an unsettling time. If you are socially isolating, may you have a stack of books awaiting your attention. We just wish we could have been your most recent source!

We look forward to seeing all of you again on the other side of this hiatus. Please consider a contribution to the Friends of the Library and JMRL in the interim.