
THE BOOKWORM



**South Montgomery County Friends of the Library
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2024 September

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Letter from the President

Greetings, Friends! I hope everyone survived the Summer and is ready for some cooler Fall weather. Hurricane Beryl reminded us of what a valuable resource our libraries are for our community. Those without electricity were able to have a place to cool off and charge their devices, and what better way to pass the time than by reading a good book.

The Summer Reading program was a success. Now the libraries are turning their attention toward back-to-school, sweater weather, and all things pumpkin. Be sure to check the calendar of events for the South and Mitchell branches to see what activities they have scheduled. You'll find something for all ages from babies to seniors. The Friends of the Library is instrumental in providing support and funding for these programs. In addition, we provide funds for the purchase of equipment, books, electronic books, and other items to enhance your library experience beyond the basics.

As you know, the South library will be moving to a new location in the Grogan's Mill Village Shopping Center. Ground has been broken and the estimate we have been given is that the new facility will open about a year from now. At this point we don't know what kind of space will be allocated for our bookshop. We are looking forward to a nice new library with up-to-date amenities. I will keep you informed as further details of the move are made available.

We are blessed with wonderful volunteers who keep our shops going strong and make our book sale a success. We appreciate all our members and thank you all for supporting us. Mark your calendars for two General Meetings coming up soon. The first meeting will be held on Thursday, September 26, at 1:00 pm, at the Mitchell Library. The slate of officer candidates for 2025 will be presented. The second meeting will be held on Monday, October 7, at 5:30 pm, at the South Library. At that time, we will vote on the slate of candidates. All members are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.

I hope to see you there.

Janice Raney

President, South Montgomery County Friends of the Library

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Shop and Help the Library at the same time!

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

To register go to your Kroger account online and select the section for “Community Rewards” on your account home page. Enter the SMCFOL Kroger Non-Profit Organization number, which is **EJ785**, and select the organization name “South Montgomery County Friends of the Library” from the pull-down menu. Now every time you use your Kroger Plus Card a credit will be accumulated for SMCFOL and each quarter the Kroger Foundation will issue a check to the Friends.

Current Board

Janice Raney

President

Debra Karl

Vice President South Library

Maureen Dalton

Vice President, Mitchell

Liz Golze

Secretary

Jan Brodhead

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Judy Mitchell

Gift Shop, South

Fiona Hewlett-Parker

Gift Shop, Mitchell

Deborah Butler

Book Sale

Chantal and Mark Weller

Book Collection

Karen Parker

Membership

Mary Jo Sgro

Hospitality

Niraj Shah

Newsletter & Website

Brenda Mayer

Amazon Sales

Annual Book Sale 2025

Watch this space for further updates for next year's book sale.

Deborah Butler and Debra Karl, Co-Chairs Book Sale

Membership

“What will you call him, honey? How about Todd? I like that name.” (Mother of an about six-year-old girl who is buying her a brand new one-of-a-kind hand-crocheted bookworm [a bookmark] made and donated by a Friends of the Library (FOL) member and selling for only \$1.50.

The girl had painstakingly selected the yarn toy from a rack of about thirty in various eye-catchingly bright color combinations with wiggly eyes and this one with sparkly silver additions. Now you could see this name suggested by Mom was being considered by the child as she held on tight and stared down her yellow and white amazingly fluffy new friend. Such a serious, studious look on her face: Would bookworm be called Todd? I wondered.

It's amazing that here in the bookshops at South Branch and Mitchell libraries we have a completely free inventory donated by you and others in the community to sell to help support the needs and wants of the librarians that otherwise wouldn't be met. Along the way FOL brings joy to our customers with gently used and completely new items. Will books disappear any time soon? Not while there are people learning to love books—and bookmarks, they won't.

Please stop by and browse and bring in your donations from time to time when you think of it.

Thanks for being a member!

Karen Parker, Membership Chair

News from the Mitchell Library

We can't wait to welcome you to Mitchell Library for the SMCVOL Fall General Meeting on Thursday, September 26 at 1pm. Come for the meeting and stay for the movie featuring *The Boys in the Boat* (2023). Refreshments provided!

The Mitchell Library is an Early Voting and Election Day voting location for the 2024 Presidential Election. Early Voting runs from Monday, October 21 through Friday, November 1. Election Day is Tuesday, November 5. While the adults vote in the Large Meeting Room, kids can vote for their favorite book character in the Children's Department. Will Cat in the Hat, Pete the Cat, Snoopy, or the Pigeon win?

The Montgomery County Memorial Library System will be closed on the following days:

- Monday, November 11 for Veterans Day
- Early 5pm closing on Wednesday, November 27
- Thursday, November 28 through Saturday, November 30 for Thanksgiving
- Early 5pm closing on Monday, December 23
- Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25 for Christmas

After a busy summer season, we're not slowing down. We have a calendar full of fun and festive fall and winter programs. We hope to see you at the library soon!

Amber Fritschel
Branch Manager

In the Community

Catch Mitchell Staff out in the community at these outreach events:

- Halloween at the YMCA (Branch Crossing) Trunk-or-Treat (Friday, October 25 from 6pm-8pm)
- Children's Festival at the Pavilion: Barnyard Bash (Saturday, November 10 and Sunday, November 11 times TBD)

Events of Note

Family Trivia Night: Halloween Edition

(Tuesday, October 1 from 6:30pm-7:30pm)

Kick off spooky season with an evening of family-friendly Halloween trivia at the Mitchell Library! Register as a team with your family or friends. Teams can range from 2-6 people. Recommend for ages 6 and up.

Tree Seedling Giveaway

(Friday, October 4 from 10am-12pm)

Representatives with Trees from Houston will host a tree seedling giveaway just in time for fall tree planting season. Pop in to pick up a native seedling to beautify your yard. Trees will be available (one per household) while supplies last.

Teen Dungeons and Dragons: One Shot Campaign Series

(Mondays, October 7, November 18, and December 9 at 5:30pm)

Join us and our friends at The Adventure Begins for a Dungeons and Dragons campaign. Bring your own character sheet or we'll help you create one! All supplies and snacks provided. Registration is limited and registration required.

Community Helpers Day

(Friday, October 11 from 10am-12pm)

Join Mitchell Library in celebrating our community helpers with a Touch-a-Truck opportunity and Community Information Fair in partnership with The Woodlands Township.

All ages are welcome! Attendees can talk to some of our essential community helpers and see their vehicles up close. We will also have a Community Fair set up in the Large Meeting Room for everyone to discover local organizations who are making a positive impact in the community.

Spooktacular Halloween Week

Join library staff as we count down the days to Halloween!

- Monday, October 28 – Represent your favorite book character
- Tuesday, October 29 – Halloween/Fall T-Shirts
- Wednesday, October 30 – Favorite Halloween Attire
- Thursday, October 31 – Family-friendly Costumes
- Friday, November 1 – Crazy Sock Day

Trick-or-Treat at Mitchell Library

(Thursday, October 31 from 9am-9pm)

Wear your costumes and visit each service desk for a treat!

Family Trivia Night: Holiday Edition

(Tuesday, December 3 from 6:30pm-7:30pm)

Kick off the winter season with an evening of family-friendly holiday trivia at the Mitchell Library! Register as a team with your family or friends. Teams can range from 2-6 people. Recommend for ages 6 and up.

Holiday Open House

(Tuesday, December 10 from 4pm-6pm)

Come join us at Mitchell Library as we celebrate the holiday season with a special Open House complete with refreshments, live music, and a special appearance by Santa!

Santa Storytime

(Thursday, December 12 at 10am and 11am)

Santa will be visiting the Mitchell Library for a special story time. Don't forget to bring your camera!

Holiday Mocktails & Musical Chairs

(Thursday, December 12 from 6:30pm-8:30pm)

Join us at the Mitchell Library for an evening of holiday fun! We will be playing musical chairs to all your favorite Christmas classics while enjoying winter-themed mocktails. You will be provided with recipes to take home to create. This is an adult only event, so make it a date night or bring your friends! Registration is recommended to reserve a spot.

Noon Year's Eve

(Thursday, December 31 from 11am-12:30pm)

Ring in the New Year at NOON with a special countdown to 2025. We will celebrate with crafts, music, and snacks. Dress up in your fancy clothes if you'd like.

News from the South Library

Welcome to spooky, pumpkin-spice and voting season! We had a busy and fun summer and a successful summer reading program: 1,676 patrons participated in the Summer Reading Program at South and 806 completed the program. As a system, participants read 25,946 books and 909,166 minutes! September is Library Card Sign-Up month and we're helping celebrate Smokey Bear's 80th birthday with a Smokey themed scavenger hunt, reading challenge and we even had a visit from him earlier this month.

We're also heading out into the community to the Farmer's Market, hats off to Reading at the Pavilion and the HEB Spooky Bash on October 26. In the Library this fall, we look forward to offering programs for all ages although our slate will be a bit slim during early voting in late October to adjust for the busy parking lot.

And let's not forget that fall brings Thanksgiving, and we are so grateful for all you do!

Cynthia Dieden
Branch Manager

The library will be closed on the following days:

- Monday, November 11 in observance of Veteran's Day
- Closing at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, November 27 and closed Thursday, November 28 - Saturday, November 30 for Thanksgiving
- Closing at 5:00 pm on Monday, December 23 and closed Tuesday, December 24 & Wednesday, December 25.

Here is a selection of upcoming programs at South Regional Library.

Adults

- Gardening with Bob & Plant Swap - Wednesday, October 2 at 1:00 p.m. Join us for a fun day of composting tips and plant swapping. Bob, our resident gardening expert, shares his secrets to creating the perfect compost for your garden. Bring extra plants you have to swap with fellow gardeners and expand your collection!
- Senior Game Day - Thursdays, October 24, November 21 & December 19 at 1:00 p.m. Dozens of card and board games for senior enthusiasts - refreshments and fun await!
- Sit & Stitch Mondays, October 21, November 18 & December 16 at 6:30 p.m. Join us to meet other needlecrafters! Bring your own current crochet, knitting, or embroidery project and socialize while working on your craft!
- Please visit our website for information about our book clubs that meet every other month: Fiction Book Club, Gumshoe Mystery Book Club, Walking Book Club and Culinary Book Club

Children and Preteens' Events

- Storytimes - check the website for dates:
 - Toddler Time - Mondays at 9:15 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
 - Preschool Storytime - Tuesdays at 9:15 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
 - Baby & Me - Wednesdays at 9:15 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
- Lego with Lexi - Thursdays, October 10, November 14 and December 12 at 4:00 p.m. We supply the bricks, and you supply the imagination! Create something amazing in this open-build program with Miss Lexi.
- Drawing for Kids - Thursdays, October 3, November 7, December 5 at 4:00 p.m.
- Drawing for Preteens - Thursdays, October 3, November 7, December 5 at 5:00 p.m.

Teens

- Teen Fall Fantasy Book Chat - Friday October 11 at 2:00 p.m. Our Fall Fantasy book chat title will be the YA selection Divine Rivals by Rebecca Ross. We'll have a fun book chat with related activities and games.
- Teen Jackbox Games - Monday, October 14 at 11:30 a.m. Bring your device and join us for a few rounds of interactive Jackbox games! If you've never played, no worries. It's super easy and super fun!
- Teen Halloween Craft - Tuesday, October 22 at 5:30 p.m. We'll make spooky season jewelry and bag charms.
- Teen Bullet Journaling - Wednesdays, September 25, October 30, November 20, at 5:30 p.m. We'll bring out the stencils, markers, stickers, and more for you to come and work on your bullet journal.

News from the Gift Shops

SOUTH

South Library Book Shop had a remarkably successful summer! Generous donations from the community helped us keep the shelves filled. It seems as soon as books came in, books went out! We had a tremendous selection of children's and young adult books which enabled us to provide books for kids to help meet their summer Reading goals.

The 19th annual National Friends of the Library Week will be October 20 -26, 2024. Nationally, Friends of the Library groups are recognized and celebrated for their support of our libraries. As the South Book Shop manager, I am so lucky to work with the 55 volunteers that give their time to support the shop and in turn, our library.

We have a full staff of regular desk volunteers who make you feel welcome and help you find that "book with the blue cover" everyone is talking about! We have substitute desk volunteers who fill in when our regular desk people are out. We have regular and substitute sorters who receive, sort, price and shelve the books.

We also have folks you don't see regularly in the shop. If you've bought a bookworm, you can thank Melanie! Joan takes care of our banking and ledgers. Brenda helps price those special books we receive in donations and works with outside vendors. Mark organizes and keeps track of hundreds of boxes of books in preparation for our annual book sale.

You see, it DOES take a village to make our shop run smoothly and successfully. Keep in mind these folks are volunteers. We jokingly say this volunteer work is one we pay to do – because we are always buying books to read at home!

Thanks to the volunteers whose love of literacy and our libraries make our shop a success. Thanks to our customers who donate and purchase the books. Together we'll continue to help our libraries thrive.

Judy Mitchell
South Book Shop Manager

MITCHELL

The summer months have been extremely busy. We had a lot of foot traffic in the shop, generated by the summer programs laid on by the library. As a result, our sales were excellent, exceeding our forecast.

Thanks to the community who have been very generous with donations we have had plenty to sell.

We have tried to be nimble with changing our displays, having special sales, and advertising on Facebook, while still filling the shop with a great variety of fiction, nonfiction, jigsaws, and some beautiful vintage books.

If you do have donations we are pleased to accept books in great condition. Unfortunately, if your books have been written in, or highlighted we cannot sell them.

I also want to thank everyone who volunteers at the bookshop in any capacity. We couldn't do this without you!

Fiona Hewlett-Parker
Mitchell Book Shop Manager