THE BOOKWORM

South Montgomery County Friends of the Library
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2026 Sep

Letter from the President 2
In Memoriam 3
Membership 5
News from the Mitchell Library 6
News from the Brady Library 8
News from the Book Shops 16

Letter from the President

Greetings friends!

As the summer turns into an even hotter autumn, come visit us in our air-conditioned Friends bookshops to see all the wonderful items that are donated daily. We also urge you to look through your own bookshelves and bring us those loved titles that are still in good condition, so we can turn around and sell them to our other friends! We make most of our money from the sale of those books, and we pour those funds directly back into our 2 Woodlands libraries.

We would like to congratulate Mitchell Library's Jennifer Giele on her promotion to Library Manager! She will shortly be overseeing some structural changes needed to the circulation desk at the library, sponsored by our Friends group! And you need to check out their beautiful fall decorations.

The Brady Library had some great programs this summer, and some of our Friends volunteers became dinosaurs during their Dino Disco Dance Party! Check out their recent additions and improvements to their book collection, also funded by us.

We will hold a short General Meeting on Wednesday September 9th at 11am in the large meeting room of the George and Cynthia Woods Mitchell Library. We will be introducing our slate of Executive Board candidates for 2027, and it will be followed by the **Fall Gardening session with Bob Dailey.**

Make sure not to miss out on updates about cart sales and interesting donations in our shops by following us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064824845056

We said a sad farewell to a longtime Friend of the Library, Win McCann recently. See her information below.

We hope to see you soon at the General Meeting and in the shops!

Debra Karl
President, South Montgomery County Friends of the Library
debkarl88@gmail.com

In Memoriam

Win McCann was a dynamo of energy and support for SMCFOL. She, along with her husband Joe, helped to get the bond passed to build our 2nd library in the Woodlands. They were part of the group that approached George Mitchell for a donation and got the $100,000 startup fund for the library's book collection. There was no limit to the amount of time, creativity and caring that she contributed to our organization. Win was a VP of the Mitchell Library, helped run our big book sales, and spent many years on our board. She could often be found at the Mitchell bookshop sorting books, decorating our bulletin boards and seasonal displays, and joyfully putting books in the hands of kids of all ages. We will be forever grateful to Win, and we will miss her.

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

Debra Karl
President
Janice Raney
Vice President Brady Library
Kathleen Gibbs
Vice President, Mitchell
Sheri Dunlop
Secretary
John W. Spies
Treasurer

Delia Pitts
Gift Shop, Brady
Fiona Hewlett-Parker
Gift Shop, Mitchell
Judy Mitchell
Book Sale
Chantal and Mark Weller
Book Collection
Karen Parker
Membership

Mary Jo Sgro
Hospitality
Niraj Shah
Newsletter & Website
Brenda Mayer
Amazon Sales

Membership

The autumn leaves here in south Texas may appear somewhat fitfully in September, yet they do herald the important last third of the year. We settle back into learning in school or working on home and business projects after a hopefully fun summer. Then, in the blink of an eye, we will be enjoying our friends and family celebrations at its other end, December 31.

The Friends of the Library bookshops always need to restock the shelves during these months. In fact, we have large cookbook sales during this season and holiday themed story books and puzzles that people really do line up to buy. Might you have some cluttering or annoyingly accumulating items you could bring to us that could help spread joy to others? We can put them in the hands of children and adults, readers and puzzlers, who will, I guarantee you, absolutely adore them.

As you may know, Ben Franklin began the "Library Company of Philadelphia" in 1731. Its website states that it was America's first successful lending library and is today its oldest cultural institution. Members pooled their money to buy books they could then borrow. Recirculated, is a bookish term that Ben Franklin may have appreciated back then. Here, at the Friends of the Library bookshops, we employee two twists to Franklin's recirculating process.

- Our first twist, a trick of magic really, is that from the small sales overwhelmingly of $.50, $1, $2, and $4, often five books for $1 we generate amazing results. You see the annual figures given in direct aid to the librarians from which they produce extraordinary improvements for its patrons, both improvements to the library itself and to produce ever larger number of wonderful programs. Those small insignificant sales add up! (Be sure to read the librarians' reports in this newsletter.)

- After a few visits to the bookshops, shoppers begin to appreciate the treasures the shops offer. They drop by more frequently to buy something "new." The second twist is that on our shelves people find books that have been enjoyed or used by others in pursuit of learning, so they have a good chance of wanting to read/own them, too. For the most part, our inventory moves out the doors very quickly.

The success of the bookshops very much depends on you, our membership, and the wider community remembering to support us even during these upcoming busy months.

Thank you for being a Friend of the Library,

Karen Parker,
Membership Chair

News from the Mitchell Library

Our previous Branch Manager, Amber Fritschel, was promoted to Assistant Director of Public Services during the summer. As the new Branch Manager for Mitchell, I look forward to working more closely with the SMCFOL group. I have worked at Mitchell Library for almost 10 years. First as a Reference Librarian and most recently as the Assistant Branch Manager.

We had another record-breaking summer at Mitchell Library. We hosted 194 programs for all ages during June and July with 11,537 people in attendance. Additionally, we hosted 46 passive programs with 13,551 participants and handed out thousands of scavenger hunt prizes. None of this amazing output of programs would be possible without the generous support of SMCFOL. Thank you!

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

- Early 5pm closing on Tuesday, November 10
- Wednesday, November 11 for Veterans Day
- Early 5pm closing on Wednesday, November 25
- Thursday, November 26 through Saturday, November 28 for Thanksgiving
- Early 5pm closing on Wednesday, December 23
- Thursday, December 24 through Saturday, December 26 for Christmas
- Early 5pm closing on Thursday, December 31
- Friday, January 1 for New Year's Day

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!

Jeni Giele
Branch Manager

In the Community

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

- Chick-fil-A's Trunk or Treat at Alden Bridge, Friday, October 16 from 5:30pm-7pm
- Trick or Treat Trail at Rob Fleming, Sunday, October 25 from 1:00pm-5:00pm

Events of Note – Save the Date

Halloween Cookie Decorating Class - Friday, October 2 from 2pm-4pm
Donna from Peace, Love, and Sugar Cookies will be leading a hands-on cookie decorating class designed for Halloween. Each participant will decorate 4 cookies and learn basic terminology, techniques, and tips about baking sugar cookies and making royal icing. This is an adult only class and registration is required

Community Helpers Day - Friday, October 9 from 10am-12pm
Join Mitchell Library in celebrating our Community Helpers with a Visit-a-Vehicle 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 on the community.

Spooky Stroll - Friday, October 30 at 10am-12pm
Come dressed in costume and take a spooky stroll through the library! Stop by participating in services desks to collect treats, then visit the Children's department for a creative, self-directed craft.

Trick-or-Treat at Mitchell Library - Friday, October 30 & Saturday, October 31 from 9am-4:30pm
Wear your costumes and visit each service desk for a treat!

Holiday Open House - Date TBA
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!

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

Christmas Traditions in the Regency Era - Friday, December 18 from 1pm-2pm
More information to come!

Lots of great activities are happening at the library. See the updated detailed calendars of events at the following site.

https://countylibrary.org//george_and_cynthia_woods_mitchell_library.php

News from the Brady Library

What a summer!

The Kevin Brady Library had an incredible summer, welcoming 62,338 visitors through our doors during June and July! In fact, our June door count broke the record for the highest door count in MCMLS history with 32,796 visitors. Our staff helped thousands of patrons, reflecting the tremendous growth and enthusiasm we continue to see from our community. We're incredibly grateful to our patrons and proud of our staff for making this such a busy and successful summer!

As we enter the fall and winter season, we are looking ahead to new community partnerships and new programming. Be sure to check out our events calendar for activities for the whole family! From National Night Out with The Woodlands Township, Halloween Trunk-or-Treats, to our annual December Holiday Open House, we look forward to seeing everyone at the library this season.

Our successes are due in large part to the unwavering support of SMCFOL. We are so fortunate to have such a committed group of volunteers and advocates on our corner. Thank you, SMCFOL, for investing in our library, supporting our staff, and helping us make a difference in the community we serve. Your support has helped make our new library feel like home.

Please note that the Montgomery County Memorial Library System will have holiday hours on the following days:

- September 5-7: Labor Day Observation
- November 10: Early Closure at 5PM; November 11: Veterans Day
- November 25: Early Closure at 5PM; November 26-28: Thanksgiving
- December 24-26: Christmas
- December 31: Early Closure at 5PM, New Year's Eve

We look forward to welcoming you this fall and winter to enjoy all the exciting programs and services the Library has to offer. From seasonal activities and family-friendly events to new programs and community partnerships, there's always something happening at the library. We hope you'll join us and make the most of the season! See you at the library!

Yours in books,

Laci Martinez
Branch Manager

Save the Date

National Library Card Sign-Up Month - Sept 1-Sept 30
Every item that gets checked out, every card that gets renewed, and every new library card created is an entry into a drawing for the month of September! A random winner will be drawn to win a book bundle and $25 gift card donated from our neighborhood coffee shop, Ome Calle Cafe! Be sure to also follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kevinbradymcmls. We'll have weekly drawings for more fun prizes!

National Night Out with The Woodlands Township & Precinct 3 - October 9, 2026 2PM-4PM
Location: Cathy Brady Ballroom, Community Center

Join Brady Library, The Woodlands Township, and Montgomery County Precinct 3 for National Night Out: Innovation in Emergency Services and discover the technology, tools, and teamwork that help keep our community safe.

Meet local first responders and emergency professionals, explore drones and specialized equipment, and try your hand at a fire extinguisher simulator with the Woodlands Fire Department. Get an inside look at real criminal cases with Othram Labs, meet a Montgomery County Search & Rescue K9, check out robot demonstrations from The Woodlands College Park Robotics team, explore how our very own library Innovation Lab can help you stay safe with 3D printed safety devices, and visit tables from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Fire Marshall, Precinct 3 Constable, and Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management.

Plus, enjoy National Night Out information and giveaways from The Woodlands Township, a visit from Nat the Knight, and a special appearance by H-E-Buddy! This come-and-go event will feature scheduled demonstrations on the stage and open to all ages.

Events for All Ages

Bring on the Fall fun with an activity for the whole family!

- September 15—International Dot Day with *The Woodlands Art League*, 4PM
- September 19—Family Fun Zone, 12PM
- September 26—Library Card Sign-Up Month Storytime, 11AM
- October 3—*Merry Wives of Windsor* with Points North Theater, 6:30PM
- October 5—Game On! @ the Library, 5:30PM
- October 17—Family Fun Zone, 12PM
- November 5—Game On! @ the Library, 5:30PM
- November 21—Family Fun Zone, 12PM
- December 7—Game On! @ the Library, 5:30PM
- December 19—Family Fun Zone, 12PM

Events for Adults (Ages 18+)

Podcast Studio and Makerspace

Attend one of our orientations to learn about all that the podcast studio and makerspace have to offer! Orientations will be held Mondays and Wednesdays at 1pm with evening sessions on Monday at 6PM and one Saturday a month. Classes offered teach attendees about using 3D Printers, Cricut, Sublimation Printing & Heat Presses, Adobe Editing Software, and Podcast Studio equipment. Orientations are required prior to equipment usage. Individuals 17 and under may attend with an adult caregiver. Visit our online events calendar for more details at countylibrary.org. Can't make a class? Pop in for a 1-on-1 Session for an orientation on the go! For questions, email Austin Chandler at austin.chandler@countylibrary.org.

Evening Book Club *NEW*

Join us for a relaxing evening of good conversation, great books and new perspectives! Brady Library's Evening Book Club meets on the third Thursday of every month to discuss a featured title, share ideas, and connect with fellow readers. Seats are limited and registration is required. Visit us online or call to register at 936-442-7727

Evening Book Club Schedule:

- October 15: *Sea of Tranquility* by Emily St. John Mandel, 6:30PM
- November 19: TBD, 6:30PM
- December 17: TBD, 6:30PM

Culinary Book Club

Hello Cooking Enthusiasts, Adults 18+, please join us at 2PM for an engaging culinary discussion. The Culinary Book Club at the Brady Library meets on the 3rd Wednesday, every other month, and is a great place to share your thoughts and ideas that celebrate your love of cooking and food. Registration is limited. Call (936) 522-2697 to register.

Culinary Book Club Schedule:

- October 21—Theme: Fall Harvest Cookbooks and Recipes, 2PM
- December 16— Theme: TBD, 2PM

Gumshoe Mystery Book Club

Please join us at the Brady Library for lively discussion and trivia of our selected mystery book, with morning and afternoon meeting options, every other month. Seating is limited and registration is required. Please call 936-522-2697 to register for this event.

Gumshoe Mystery Book Club Schedule:

- Sept. 8—*Mexican Gothic* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia, 11AM
- Sept. 9—*Mexican Gothic* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia, 2PM

Fiction Book Club
Please join us at Brady Library for a lively discussion of our selected fiction book every other month. Seating is limited and registration is required. Please call 936-522-2699 if you have any questions or would like to register for this event. Limited free copies of the upcoming book club selection will be raffled off during the book club meeting. There will also be a chance to register and receive a free copy starting at 10 AM on the day of registration.

Fiction Book Club Schedule:

- October 26—*Rita Hayworth & Shawshank Redemption* by Stephen King, 11AM & 2PM
- December—TBD

Walking Book Club
Now that the summer heat is over, the Walking Book Club is back! Adults 18+, join us for the walking book club at 11AM, every other month. We will walk along the nature path behind the library together. Call 936-522-2699 to register. A signed waiver is required to participate.

Walking Book Club Schedule:

- September 23—*Nothing to See Here* by Kevin Wilson, 11AM
- November—TBD

Mah Jongg (Mandarin)
Love Mah Jongg or curious about learning? Join us for one of our Mandarin Mahjong programs, designed for players of all levels. Have fun practicing and playing this fun and interactive game. Registration is required. Please call (936) 522-2697 to register for this program.
Mah Jongg Schedule:

- September 1, 15, 24, and 29—Intermediate Mah Jongg, 12:30PM

Crafting Corner
Get creative at our arts & crafts workshop series! Each workshop features a different hands-on craft, so there's always something new to make and explore. Registration is required. For questions, please call 936-442-7727.

Craft Corner Schedule:

- September 2—Fall Diamond Art, 1PM
- October 7—TBD, 1PM
- November 4—TBD, 1PM
- December 2—TBD, 1PM

Home & Garden Series
Dig into something with our Home & Garden series, where we're bringing practical knowledge and fresh inspiration straight to your fingertips. This season's lineup focuses on gardening tips and the many benefits of growing and using your own herbs. Great for beginners and experts alike.

Home & Garden Schedule:

- September 3—Propagate Plants, 1PM
- September 26—Puzzle Swap, 2PM
- November 7—Puzzle Swap, 2PM
- December 5—Puzzle Swap, 2PM

NOTE: We are looking for volunteers that love speaking about plants and gardening! If you would like to donate your time to teach a class and share your gardening knowledge with others, give us a call at 936-442-7727!

Financial Literacy Series
Join us at the library for a variety of engaging educational seminars on managing your finances, Courtesy of Woodforest Bank and others. This series is designed to help you build confidence, make informed decisions, and plan for a more secure financial future—no matter where you are on your financial journey.

Activity Schedule:

- September 17—TBD, 1PM
- September 28—Guarding Your Savings, 1PM
- October 14—Making Your Money Last Through Retirement, 1PM
- October 15—TBD, 1PM

Retro Movie Matinee for Adults
Sit back, relax, and enjoy a great movie on the big screen! Join us each month for a fun film experience featuring a memorable retro movie for fans to enjoy together.
The movie will be shown in the Jim and Nelda Blair Classroom. No registration.

Movie Matinee Schedule:

- September 21—*Goonies*, PG-13, 2PM
- October 19—TBD, 2PM
- November 15—TBD, 2PM
- December 14—TBD, 2PM

Events for Teens (Ages 13-17)

Calling all teens ages 13–17! Join us for a variety of fun, engaging programs created just for you. Whether you're exploring your creativity, learning something new, meeting new people, or simply looking for a place to hang out, there's always something exciting happening at the library. Come make, create, discover, and have fun in a welcoming space designed with teens in mind! **Parents and guardians are asked to drop off their teens or wait elsewhere in the library during the teen programs.* Registration is required.

Teen Schedule:

- September 1—Teen Journaling Hour, 4PM
- September 10—Manga Meet Up, 5:30PM
- September 15—Sweater Pumpkin Craft, 4PM
- September 22—Paper Quilling Craft, 4PM
- September 29—Crochet Candy Corn Craft, 4PM
- October 6—Vintage Ghost Paintings, 4PM
- October 27—Pick Your Poison Craft Night, 4PM
- October 29—Teen Journaling Hour, 4PM
- November 3—Mini Wreath Making Workshop, 4PM
- November 9—Silent Book Club, 4PM

Teen S.M.A.R.T Series *in partnership with The Woodlands Township*
Learn. Connect. Be Prepared! Join us for monthly presentations designed for teens and parents, exploring relevant topics and challenges teens face in today's world with insights from public safety and community experts. Sessions offer practical strategies, interactive discussions and questions. This program is intended for teens and parents and will be held in the Jim and Nelda Blair Classroom at 5:30PM. No registration.
Series Schedule:

- Sept. 2—The Hidden Dangers of Prescription Drugs and Substances w/CISD and DEA Special Agent Kareem Vaughn
- Oct. 7—Social Media Responsibility and Safety w/PCT 3 Constable & FBI Special Agent Torre White
- Nov. 4—Mental Health First Aid w/Mosaics of Mercy
- Dec. 2—Forming Healthy Relationships and Boundaries w/Montgomery County Women's Center

Events for Children (Ages 0-12)

Special Events

- October 24—Pumpkin Patch Crafts w/Celebree School, 11AM-1PM
- October 29—Slime Time w/Playstreet Museum, 11AM

Children Storytimes
These interactive weekly storytimes focus on promoting early literacy through books, music, fingerplays and more! Storytimes are at 9:15AM and 10:00AM. No registration is required.

Storytime Schedule:

- Mondays—Preschool Storytime, Ages 3+
- Tuesdays—Toddler Storytime, Ages 18 months-3 years
- Wednesdays—Baby & Me, Ages 18 months and younger

STEAM Crafternoon
Children aged 4-12 are invited to join us in the Children's Department at 4PM to learn the science behind a STEAM-inspired craft! Parent participation is encouraged for those children who need extra hands-on help. This event is a come and go activity and a child must be supervised by an adult.

- September 24, 4PM
- October 22, 4PM

READ to the Dogs
READ with the Dogs encourages children to practice their reading skills by reading to specially trained therapy dogs every 2nd Saturday at 10AM. This activity is provided through a partnership with *Pets with a Mission*. This program is intended for children who are able to read independently or with minimal help. Children who are not yet reading are invited to enjoy books in the library with their caregiver. Registration is required.

- September 12
- October 10
- November 14
- December 12

LEGOs with Lexi
We supply bricks, and you supply the imagination! Create something amazing in this open-build program with Miss Lexi. Due to choking hazard, this program is not appropriate for children under the age of 3 years.

- September 10—4PM
- October 8—4PM
- November 12—4PM

Stories & Scribbles
Stories & Scribbles is a reading and writing book club for preteens, combining an engaging book discussion with a related creative writing activity. We will meet on the first Thursday of the month at 4:00PM for about 1 hour. Registration is required. The first five people who register will receive a free copy of the book. This club is intended for preteens aged 8-12.

- September 3—*The Lion of Mars* by Jennifer L. Holm, 4PM

Children's Crochet Club for Homeschoolers *NEW*
Come join us as we explore and learn about the craft of crochet! For beginners and skilled crocheters ages 8-12! Limited craft supplies are provided for those who don't have their own, and supplies brought from home are welcome. We strongly recommend that any supplies brought from home are labeled. We hope to see you there! This program will take place in the Jim and Nelda Blair Classroom. Registration is required.

- September 17—11AM
- October 15—11AM
- November 19—11AM

Lots of great activities are happening at the library. See the updated and detailed calendars of events and sign up for the Brady Library Newsletter on the website:

https://countylibrary.org//kevin_brady_library.php

News from the Book Shops

BRADY

September marks the beginning of the second year of the FOL Book Shop at the Brady Library. The shop continues to develop as an open, friendly place where the community and FOL volunteers work together to support library programs and services. The interests and stories we share create meaningful connections that will deepen with time.

Outstanding donations (particularly children's and vintage books, and parent/teacher resources) have filled many shelves and sales carts. As 2026 winds down, please remember that we always appreciate donations of adult fiction and non-fiction, as well. Thank you! After successful book sales during the summer, we look forward to offering a variety of Halloween and Christmas books to enrich the upcoming holidays. And don't forget all those seasonal puzzles! Thanks to the amazing team of volunteers who donate their personal time each week to sort, shelve, and help with sales. We are grateful to all of you who visit and shop with us.

See you soon!

Delia Pitts
Brady Book Shop Manager

MITCHELL

What an amazing spring and summer we have experienced at our bookshop! We have been able to welcome so many of our customers and their children and hope we've been able to help them find that perfect book! Everything we sell directly benefits the South Montgomery County libraries, and we are delighted to have had such a successful summer.

Although our books are priced to sell, we regularly have mini sales at the shop. We try to advertise them regularly on Facebook, but if you're in the area, pop in to see what we have.

We're extremely grateful for the generous donations of books and jigsaw puzzles which have helped us to keep our shelves full of interesting material. If you would like to donate materials to us, we will gratefully receive books in excellent condition (not highlighted or written in), which have been published more recently, or which are considered "classics".

We're lucky enough to have an enthusiastic team of volunteers who help in sorting and selling the donated items. We don't have any openings for regular shifts now but are happy to add people to our list of substitutes!

Fiona Hewlett-Parker
Mitchell Book Shop Manager