



November 2011  
Vol. 28, No. 9

<http://civic.bev.net/aarp>

## November 15 Chapter Meeting Montgomery County Christmas Store

Bring your "bag lunch" to the Blacksburg Community Center on Patrick Henry Drive for our regular AARP Blacksburg Chapter meeting on Tuesday, November 15. We begin at 11:30 a.m. Refreshments this month will be provided by English Meadows Senior Living Community. The meeting and program begin at noon.

The program this month features a presentation about the **Montgomery County Christmas Store**. Representatives will provide an overview of plans for December 2011.

AARP members attending are asked to bring: children/youth underwear (one or more unopened packages) to restock a major shortage in this needed item.

The meeting will close no later than 1 p.m.

## President's Column



### A Special Celebration

The chapter's Holiday luncheon will be a special celebration this year. The theme for the luncheon will be of a historical nature celebrating our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In addition the chapter and several of its members have received numerous significant awards in 2011.

June 29, 1976 was the day the Virginia State Corporation Commission incorporated

the Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613. Consequently, 2011 is our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. We will have special recognition as part of the luncheon program. Included with the recognition will be a presentation by Jim Gaines author of the chapter history - *AARP Blacksburg Chapter #2613 The Thirty Year History*.

The chapter has received the **Outstanding Virginia AARP Chapter Award**, the **AARP Virginia Outstanding Newsletter Award** (recognition of Edd Sewell, editor), and **third place nationally for the 2010 AARP-VCOM Health and Wellness Fair** from the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine.

In addition to the chapter recognition, several chapter members received important recognition during the year. **AARP Virginia Andrus Award** and **Jim and Lenna Moore Award**: Carl McDaniels, **Leading Lights Awards Recipients**: Phyllis Albritton, Pat Ballard, and Mary Ann Hinshelwood, **Lewis-Gale Montgomery Hospital Volunteer of the Year**: Norm Eiss, **Frist Humanitarian Award**: Jo Ann Underwood, and **AARP State President's Volunteer Award**: Sally Anna Stapleton.

Because of the efforts of the chapter's members, committee chairs, board members, officers, and 35 years of tradition these significant recognitions and awards were possible. Be sure to attend the December 13<sup>th</sup> Holiday luncheon and celebrate with the chapter.

John Hillison

## **New River Valley Agency on Aging and Senior Services**

**Tina King, Executive Director**  
New River Valley Agency on Aging

November seems to be a latent period sandwiched in between brilliant October and sparkling December. Perhaps it is a “pause period”; a time to stop, reflect, and make a list of what we have to be thankful for as the month quickly moves on to a busy “holiday season.”

Each of us have many and varied reasons to be thankful. Included in my long list of reasons to be thankful, is an appreciation for family caregivers and the role they fill in caring for loved ones. November has been declared Family Caregiver Month at the national level and in Virginia. The reason for this is the enormous impact that family caregivers have.

Approximately 900,000 Virginians currently assist family and friends in need of care, supporting their independence and enabling them to continue living in their homes and communities. In addition to caring for older relatives, thousands of older Virginians serve as caregivers for over 112,000 grandchildren, many of whom have no parents present in the home, and some of whom are children of military personnel who are deployed abroad. The support that caregivers provide is invaluable because of the quality of care and because of the financial aspect. Family caregivers in Virginia perform support equivalent to nearly \$10 billion in services.

Most family caregivers provide care considering it a part of their role and responsibility. However, they deserve recognition and appreciation for what they do. While caregiving has an intrinsic reward, it can often be a long, lonely, arduous, and costly experience. If you are a caregiver or know a caregiver who could use some assistance with finding resources and services, contact the Agency on Aging at 980-

7720. We can work to identify some resources and possible solutions to support caregiver’s efforts.

The “Supplies for Seniors” project sponsored by RSVP and partners is also on my list of reasons to be thankful. The project provides basic household and personal hygiene supplies to over 260 homebound older adults residing throughout the New River Valley. Supplies are being collected through November 30, 2011. Each year we receive heartfelt appreciative responses from those receiving the supplies. The supplies not only help financially, they also boost the spirits of the recipients as they are made aware that others care and recognize their existence. For more information on the project call RSVP at 382-5775 or the Agency on Aging at 980-7720.

Additionally, the Blacksburg AARP Chapter is on my list. The educational meetings, the advocacy for issues affecting older adults and the newsletter are tremendous assets. The generosity in supplying space to the Agency on Aging in the newsletter is most appreciated. Your suggestions for topics are welcomed. You can e-mail me at [tinaking@nrva.org](mailto:tinaking@nrva.org) or call me at 980-7720.

As we reflect and “list” all that we are thankful for during this month, perhaps we could extend it and have a perpetual “season of thankfulness.”

### **AARP Blacksburg Chapter #2613**

Chapter meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center, Patrick Henry Drive at 11:30 a.m. There are no meetings in July or August. Board meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center at 10:00 a.m.

PO Box 10082

Blacksburg, VA 24062

<http://civic.bev.net/aarp/>

## **Montgomery County Christmas Store Needs You**

**Remember -- At the November chapter meeting please bring a new pack of children's underwear for the Montgomery County Christmas Store.**

The Montgomery County Christmas Store is in full swing again this year. This year we find our greatest need (other than cash) is in children's underwear. This is an item we do not include in our budget and depend on donations entirely. With Walmart now unable to provide the same amount of goods, we are realizing a shortage this year.

Started in 1982, the store has continued to meet the needs of low-income families in Montgomery County. Last year we served 1,564 families that included 2,272 children and 808 seniors/disabled adults. With these numbers, our reserves of clothing and toys diminished so our fundraising goal is increased in order to provide the same quality of new goods for our clients. Approximately 1300 volunteers are needed throughout the year and about 800 during the week the store is open to provide this shopping experience for our families.

We are in the middle of eligibility and so far we have currently 554 families, of these 153 or 28% are new clients. We have 942 families that shopped with us last year that have not returned for screening. Our numbers are expected to be well above last years.

In addition to families, the store also provides gifts to low-income residents of Heritage Hall, Adults in Protective Service, women and children housed at the Women's Resource Center shelter and to all Montgomery County Foster Children.

The budget for this year is \$191,200. The source of donations is: 65% from individuals, 20% churches and civic groups, and 15% from businesses.

Finally – To donate new or gently used winter clothing - the store will be open from 9:00 am -4:00 pm every Saturday and Tuesday in November and the week of November 28-December 5. The Northside Presbyterian Church in Blacksburg is open 10 a.m. -2 p.m. each Saturday in November to accept donations. Store dates for shopping are Tuesday, December 6 thru Saturday, December 10.

To make a cash donation, mail a check made payable to the Montgomery County Christmas Store to:

Montgomery County Christmas Store  
PO Box 221,  
Blacksburg, VA 24063

You also may logon to our website [www.mcchristmasstore.org](http://www.mcchristmasstore.org) and click on the donate button. You may also use the website to volunteer at the store.

## **Create the Good / Community Service**

Sally Anna Stapleton  
Create the Good Organizer  
Community Service Committee

The cool weather is upon us and we turn our needs to what we wear when it turns cold. Unfortunately there are many folks out there that do not have the simple essential of a warm coat. Our "Create The Good" project for this year is a **Winter Coat Drive**. The Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program is collecting gently used coats for women, men, and children. Larger sizes are especially needed, but all donations are encouraged. Please help make this coat drive a success. Donations may be taken to the MCEAP Thrift Store in Christiansburg, located at the corner of Phlegar St. and W. Main St. or you can contact Sally Anna Stapleton, CTG Organizer at 540-552-0505, and I will come and pick up any donations you have. Clean out those closets and help those in need!

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The Christmas Store will be our keynote speaker on November 15th. This store helps so many people during this season, so please see your way to help any way you can! Attend the Blacksburg Chapter meeting on November 15th to find out how you can help.

Throughout the month of November RSVP will continue to collect for it's 4<sup>th</sup> annual "Supplies for Seniors" project by collecting basic household and personal care items for 260 homebound seniors living in the New River Valley. Items needed are:

- |                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| toilet paper                   | tissues           |
| soap                           | detergent         |
| toothpaste                     | paper towels      |
| tooth brushes                  | cleaning supplies |
| deodorant                      | trash bags        |
| hand & body lotion             | clothes softener  |
| shampoo                        | conditioner       |
| alcohol-based hand sanitizer   |                   |
| food storage supplies          |                   |
| crossword/word search puzzles. |                   |

These items can be taken to any of the county libraries, Karr Activity Center at Warm Hearth Village, Christiansburg Recreation Center, RSVP in Christiansburg or Pulaski. Collections run until November 30, 2011.

Any questions? Contact RSVP by emailing [littleam@montgomerycountyva.gov](mailto:littleam@montgomerycountyva.gov) or calling 382-5775.

Please check out [createthegood.org](http://createthegood.org) (our website) for other opportunities and get involved.

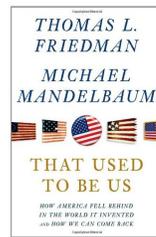
## New Large Print Books at the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library

By Elizabeth Sensabaugh,  
Blacksburg Library Branch Supervisor

Do you enjoy reading reviews, having access to author biographies and learning about upcoming publications? Are you part of a book club for which you sometimes need reading guide questions to discuss? Would

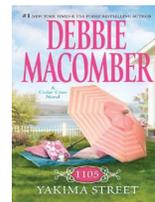
you like to type in preferences for period, setting, etc. and be rewarded online with reading suggestions? If you said "yes" to any of these questions, BookBrowse is the database for you! Please be sure to visit our BookBrowse database at no cost to MFRL patrons at [www.mfrl.org](http://www.mfrl.org).

Large Print titles received recently are listed below and are also featured in BookBrowse.



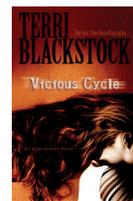
***That Used to Be Us: How America Fell Behind in the World It Invented and How We Can Come Back***  
by Thomas L. Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum.

World-renowned columnist and author Thomas L. Friedman (of *Hot, Flat and Crowded* and *The World is Flat*) joins with foreign-policy expert Mandelbaum to identify four of the major challenges facing America today. Friedman and Mandelbaum explore America's history, educate readers about the travesties of America's current path, and encourage an uprising of positive change.



***1105 Yakima Street***  
by Debbie Macomber.

*1105 Yakima Street* is the 11<sup>th</sup> book in the Cedar Cove, Washington series. Readers who enjoy the romantic suspense genre and appreciate small town life with intimate characters will appreciate Macomber's second to last book in the series. The final book in the series, *1225 Christmas Lane*, is out now in regular print. Look for the sight-saving print to be received soon at the library!



***Vicious Cycle***  
by Terri Blackstock.  
*New York Times* Best-Seller and Christy Award Nominee author

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Terri Blackstock returns with the second book of the Intervention series. The first book in the series, *Intervention*, was the 2010 Carol Award Winner. Drug addiction, human trafficking and the criminal world are all prevalent themes in this suspenseful story.

Other new large print titles:

- The Heiress* by Lynsay Sands
- Sacred Evil* by Heather Graham
- Venetia* by Georgette Heyer
- Blood Ties* by Sharon Sala
- Trick of the Light* by Louise Penny

**Blacksburg AARP Chapter # 2613  
Membership Report  
November 2011\***

Member Profile:

| Category                | Count      |
|-------------------------|------------|
| AARP 2012 Members       | 44         |
| AARP 2011 Members       | 235        |
| LifeTime Members        | 44         |
| Life Members            | 9          |
| Comp Members            | 17         |
| Honorary Members        | 4          |
| <b>Total Membership</b> | <b>353</b> |

New Members: Beatrice Porterfield

Newsletters for June 2011: 240

Membership Committee:

Tom Alston (Chair), Sue Farrar, Jim Wightman

\*Report prepared October 30, 2011

**Blacksburg AARP Chapter # 2613  
Financial Report  
October 2011**

**Balance at end of September** \$2,127.39

**Credits**

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 10/12 Membership Dues | \$ 65.00        |
| 10/23 Interest        | .05             |
| 10/31 Membership Dues | 30.00           |
| 10/31 50/50 Drawing   | 18.50           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>\$113.55</b> |

**Debits**

|                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 10/10 Kopy Korner (newsletter) | \$ 125.48        |
| 10/14 John Hillison (postage)  | 37.54            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                   | <b>\$ 263.02</b> |

**Balance end of October 2011** \$2,077.92

**Balance in reserve account** \$2,678.42

## Minutes

### AARP Blacksburg Board Meeting Tuesday, November 1, 2011

President John Hillison called the meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Blacksburg Community Center with the following members present: John Hillison, Margaret Kates, Juanita Wightman, Tom Alson, Don Creamer, Sally Anna Stapleton, Carl McDaniels, Edd Sewell, Larry Alexander, R. B. "Ben" Crawford, Jim Wightman, Val Coluni, Jim Montgomery, Dors Abraham, Mary Ann Hinshelwood, and Sue Farrar. Don Creamer was appointed secretary for the meeting. The agenda was approved as was the minutes of the October 4, 2011 Board meeting. The October 2011 Financial Report showing a balance of \$2077.92 and a reserve account balance of \$2678.42 was reviewed and accepted.

President Hillison reported on the reasons for the Post Office's delay of last month's newsletter. A copy of the Huguenot Chapter newsletter was circulated as well as a thank you note from Warm Hearth Village. President Hillison announced several awards to be received by the chapter including the **AARP Virginia Outstanding Chapter Award**, the **AARP Virginia Outstanding Newsletter Award**, and third place nationally for the **2010 AARP/VCOM Health and Wellness Fair from the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine**. Awards to members of the AARP Blacksburg chapter included the **AARP Virginia Andrus Award** to Carl McDaniels; **Leading Lights Award** to Phyllis Albritton, Pat Ballard, and Mary Ann Hinshelwood; **Lewis-Gale Montgomery Hospital Volunteer of the Year Award** to Norm Eiss; **Frist Humanitarian Award** to Jo Ann Underwood; and **AARP State President's Volunteer Award** to Sally Anna Stapleton.

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### **Committee Chair Reports**

**Health:** Larry Alexander encouraged each member to address one important health issue

**Membership:** Tom Alston reported one new member (Beatrice Porterfield) and a total of 353 chapter members

**Public Relations:** No report

**Legislative:** Val Coluni underscored the importance of voting next week and Ben Crawford reminded Board members of an invitation to attend the meeting of the Future of Extension to be held this date in Christiansburg

**Program:** Carl McDaniels reminded the Board of this month's public meeting program concerning the Christmas Store and previewed possible programs for the first three months of 2012

**Newsletter:** Edd Sewell reported possible developments with AARP Blacksburg web site

**Chapter Awards:** Juanita Wightman reported that awards for this year are on track

**Caring:** Margaret Kates noted no reported illnesses among members

**AARP Driving Courses:** No report

**History:** Doris Abraham updated members on chapter history archives

**Hospitality:** No report

**Community Service:** Sally Anna Stapleton reported that the RSVP Walk-a-Thon earned \$1500

**Create the Good:** Sally Anna Stapleton announced a coming coat drive event

**Christmas Luncheon:** Sue Farrar described the final arrangements for the holiday luncheon scheduled for December 13 at Custom Catering. Cost is \$15.00 per person.

### **Liaison Reports**

**AARP Virginia:** Ben Crawford summarized a recent study by AARP Virginia that concerned Internet usage of AARP members showing about 20% who do not use the Internet at all

**VTRA:** No report

### **Unfinished Business**

President Hillison reviewed proposed procedures for sponsorship of AARP Chapter activities and indicated to the members that English Meadows has made a specific request to sponsor hospitality at the November public meeting. Don Creamer moved and Jim Montgomery seconded a motion that the Board approve the following policy statement regarding sponsorships: *AARP Blacksburg shall permit sponsorship of its activities. The chapter Board of Directors shall approve all sponsors and their sponsorship activities.* President Hillison was asked to finalize arrangements for this month's sponsorship by English Meadows.

### **New Business**

**Program of Activities Update:** Don Creamer reminded members that their respective activities reports are due at the December Board of Directors meeting. Copies of each officer/committee activities for 2011 were distributed and members were asked to complete these records for next month's Board meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.**

Don Creamer  
Acting Secretary



## 2011 Officers, Board Members, and Committee Chairs

### Officers

|                |               |  |
|----------------|---------------|--|
| President      | John Hillison | <a href="mailto:johnhillison@comcast.net">johnhillison@comcast.net</a> |
| Vice President | Don Creamer   | <a href="mailto:dgc2@vt.edu">dgc2@vt.edu</a>                           |
| Secretary      | Virgil Cook   | <a href="mailto:vcook@vt.edu">vcook@vt.edu</a>                         |
| Treasurer      | Brian Allen   | <a href="mailto:mballen@prodigy.net">mballen@prodigy.net</a>           |

### Board of Directors

*Class of 2011* -- Don Creamer, [dgc2@vt.edu](mailto:dgc2@vt.edu); John Hillison, [johnhillison@comcast.net](mailto:johnhillison@comcast.net); Sue Farrar, [suefarrar@verizon.net](mailto:suefarrar@verizon.net)

*Class of 2012* -- Mary Ann Hinshelwood, [mah@mahinshelwood.com](mailto:mah@mahinshelwood.com), June Schmidt, [schmidtj@vt.edu](mailto:schmidtj@vt.edu)

*Class of 2013* -- Tom Alston, [tpalston@gmail.com](mailto:tpalston@gmail.com); Jim Montgomery, [jhmontgome@verizon.net](mailto:jhmontgome@verizon.net); Juanita Wightman, [Wightman@vt.edu](mailto:Wightman@vt.edu)

### Committee Chairs and Appointees

|                                   |                      |  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| AARP of Virginia                  | Ben Crawford         | <a href="mailto:ben.crawford@vt.edu">ben.crawford@vt.edu</a>       |
| AARP Driver Safety Course         | Curt Finch           | <a href="mailto:crfinch@vt.edu">crfinch@vt.edu</a>                 |
| Assoc. Treasurer                  | Judy Sewell          | <a href="mailto:judysewell@verizon.net">judysewell@verizon.net</a> |
| Caring                            | Margaret Kates       |  |
| Chaplain                          | Sandy Birch          | <a href="mailto:birch@vt.edu">birch@vt.edu</a>                     |
| Chapter Awards                    | Juanita Wightman     | <a href="mailto:wightman@vt.edu">wightman@vt.edu</a>               |
| Financial Planning                | Dale Oliver          | <a href="mailto:jdoliver@vt.edu">jdoliver@vt.edu</a>               |
| Health Care                       | Larry Alexander      | <a href="mailto:aalexand@radford.edu">aalexand@radford.edu</a>     |
| History                           | Doris Abraham        | <a href="mailto:dsta118e@verizon.net">dsta118e@verizon.net</a>     |
| Hospitality                       | JoAnn Underwood      |  |
| Legislative                       | Ben Crawford,        | <a href="mailto:ben.crawford@vt.edu">ben.crawford@vt.edu</a>       |
| Membership                        | Jim Wightman,        | <a href="mailto:wightman@vt.edu">wightman@vt.edu</a>               |
| News Editor                       | Edd Sewell,          | <a href="mailto:eddsewell@gmail.com">eddsewell@gmail.com</a>       |
| Nominating Committee              | Class of 2011        |  |
| Program                           | Carl McDaniels       | <a href="mailto:cmcd@vt.edu">cmcd@vt.edu</a>                       |
| Public Relations                  | Nancy Eiss           | <a href="mailto:nsjeiss@verizon.net">nsjeiss@verizon.net</a>       |
| Create the Good/Community Service | Sally Anna Stapleton | <a href="mailto:zulla1947@verizon.net">zulla1947@verizon.net</a>   |
| VT Retirees Association           | Margaret Kates       |  |

**John Hillison, President  
AARP Chapter #2613  
P.O. Box 10082  
Blacksburg, VA 24062**

**Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Blacksburg, VA  
Permit No. 32**

## **AARP Chapter #2613 Member Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Prefer to receive newsletters: (check one)

Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Annual (Calendar Year) Dues: \$15.00

(includes spouse)\*

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

90+ years old (no dues) \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks to AARP Blacksburg Chapter #2613

And mail to

P.O.Box 10082,  
Blacksburg, VA 24062

**\*Local Chapter membership requires membership in National AARP. For more information, call 1-888-287-2277 or mail national dues to AARP, 601 E Street, NW, Washington DC 20049.**