

friends

HELPING
LIBRARIES REACH
NEW HEIGHTS

Friends of the Library, Montgomery County • www.folmc.org

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING OUR CHAPTERS

From the FOLMC Board President and Executive Director

We would like to announce that the FOLMC Board of Trustees has voted unanimously to change the chapter model for our organization. Instead of chapters, our new **ONE FOLMC** model will centralize volunteer activities, creating a more unified, efficient, and streamlined organization. The decision to create a new **ONE FOLMC** model was driven by an extensive years-long business review that exposed both fiduciary and liability risks that threaten the long-term viability of the whole organization.

This decision was made after careful and deliberate consideration. As 501c3's in the state of Maryland, individual chapters were required to file articles of incorporation, recruit a board of directors governed by a set of by-laws, and maintain their status as a charity under Maryland law. FOLMC was held legally and financially responsible for all actions or inactions taken by the individual chapters but did not have authority to ensure their compliance. Despite efforts over many years to resolve these risks within the current chapter model, it became clear that revising our model was our only path forward. Our chapter leaders were notified of the change on March 19 and provided with a path to determine next steps for ensuring that publicly donated assets remain accessible to their intended MCPL branch.

This step does not change FOLMC's mission to strengthen, promote, and champion Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) or to continue directing funds to each branch for which they are raised. To give, visit www.folmc.org/donate or use the enclosed envelope. FOLMC's vision that everyone in Montgomery County values and benefits from our public libraries remains the same, as do our values of education,

innovation, service, integrity, and advocacy. Our volunteers will still carry out book sales and participate in programs supporting their local library. The new **ONE FOLMC** volunteer model will not impact our relationship with and ability to serve MCPL.

The change to **ONE FOLMC** benefits our hardworking volunteers by easing the administrative burdens of chapter management so that they can spend more time doing what they love, including conducting book sales which supports library programming. It benefits MCPL by streamlining their interactions with FOLMC to communicate branch needs for programs and funding. In addition to reducing the risks previously listed, the new model strengthens FOLMC's oversight and stewardship of publicly donated assets intended to benefit MCPL.

As we take this necessary step, we'd like to thank our volunteers and chapter leaders for their dedication in supporting our treasured public libraries. We look forward to continuing our mission together as **ONE FOLMC**.

For more information about **ONE FOLMC**, please see our Frequently Asked Questions included in this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Pamela Saussy, President
Board of Trustees

Ari Z. Brooks,
Executive Director



ONE FOLMC Frequently Asked Questions

What is ONE FOLMC?

ONE FOLMC is our new volunteer service model which centralizes volunteer activities and administration to create a more unified, efficient, and streamlined organization. This updated structure allows us to better serve our mission to support Montgomery County Public Libraries with financial and volunteer support.

How is this different from the model you had before?

FOLMC's prior volunteer model entailed branch-specific chapters incorporated as independent 501c3 entities operating under the parent FOLMC organization. Volunteers worked with FOLMC through these chapters to serve their local libraries.

Under the ONE FOLMC model, volunteers will continue to support their local public libraries through many of the same activities, but they will now be overseen directly by FOLMC staff, rather than by a specific chapter. Publicly donated funds will continue to be invested in the library branches for which they were raised and disbursed in alignment with MCPL needs.

Why did you make this change?

As 501c3's in the state of Maryland, individual chapters were required to file articles of incorporation, recruit a board of directors governed by a set of by-laws, and maintain their status as a charity under Maryland law. FOLMC was held legally and financially responsible for all actions or inactions taken by the individual chapters but did not have authority to ensure their compliance. The decision to create a new ONE FOLMC model was driven by an extensive years-long business review that exposed both fiduciary and liability risks that threatened the long-term viability of the whole organization. Despite efforts over many years to resolve these risks within the current chapter model, it became clear that revising our model was our only path forward.

Can FOLMC still be a true "Friends" organization without chapters?

FOLMC remains a true "Friends" organization under the new ONE FOLMC model. Our mission and purpose remain the same – to assist with funding and volunteer support to MCPL and each branch library. Volunteers will still help their own branch, but they will simply work directly with our FOLMC staff, rather than for a specific chapter. Some MCPL branches without chapters have been supported in this manner all along.

We greatly value and appreciate our hard-working, dedicated volunteers. One benefit of simplifying our model is that it allows our volunteers more time to directly help the libraries and do the work they tell us they love, such as book sales and program activities, by removing many of the burdensome administrative and financial duties necessary under the chapter model. Those who wish to influence library programs and policies can also join their Branch Library Advisory Committee (LAC) or the Library Board.

Will the fundraising model change under the ONE FOLMC model?

Monies raised by FOLMC will be held in an FOLMC bank account and restricted to benefit their designated branches in alignment with MCPL needs. FOLMC will provide a vehicle for monies raised by chapters to benefit their respective branches.

Can I still join FOLMC as a member and financially support my favorite branch?

Yes! Simply tell us which branch you'd like to support. If you've been a chapter member, your membership in FOLMC remains intact (if you sent funds directly to FOLMC) and benefits the specified branch. No further action is needed by current dues-paying members.

Why Do You
LOVE
Libraries?



"BECAUSE THEY HELP MAKE A COMMUNITY, AND I LOVE ANYTHING THAT MAKES A COMMUNITY A COMMUNITY." - DP

"LIBRARIES OPEN UP NEW WORLDS, NEW POSSIBILITY, AND NEW ADVENTURES." - RG

"I LOVE LIBRARIES, BECAUSE THEY ARE FULL OF BOOKS. I THINK OF BOOKS AS FRIENDS FROM ALL ERAS THAT ARE IMPARTING THEIR KNOWLEDGE TO ME." - SW

We thank everyone who told us [#whyilovemylibrary](#)

LIBRARY LOVERS MONTH

ONE FOLMC Frequently Asked Questions

How can I volunteer or continue volunteering?

Visit www.folmc.org and click on "Support/Volunteer With Us" to learn about volunteer opportunities with FOLMC. Volunteers can support their local branch book sales, at FOLMC bookstores, and in programming throughout the year. Both current and new volunteers will need to fill out the form in order to update our records.

Where can I donate my books?

FOLMC accepts donations of books and other items at our Rockville and Wheaton Bookstores. Visit www.folmc.org and click on "Bookstores/Donations We Accept" to learn more. Visit <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/library/about/bookdonations.html> to learn about donating books to MCPL Branches.

Will there still be book sales at the branches without FOLMC chapters?

Yes! FOLMC will work with volunteers in cooperation with MCPL to operate book sales at branches. Book sales are the primary source of supplemental income for the branches and the most popular volunteer activity. We will consider expanding other volunteer opportunities as well based on MCPL input.

Are all chapters on board with this new structure?

This decision was made at the Board of Trustee level of FOLMC. We understand that some chapters may wish to preserve the previous model, but that is not a viable option due to the significant legal and financial risk to FOLMC.

Are MCPL and Montgomery County Government in agreement with this new model?

We cannot speak for MCPL or Montgomery County Government, but FOLMC works hand-in-hand with MCPL Administration to understand and meet its needs and we are confident this new model will better serve branches by expanding our reach and creating a more efficient, streamlined process.

When does this new structure go into effect?

The new structure is effective immediately, but there will be several weeks of transition to new volunteer procedures.

**HELLO,
SUNDAY!**

**The FOLMC Wheaton
Bookstore Is Now
Open Sundays!**

New Hours
Sunday 12 - 6 PM
Mon-Fri: 12 - 6 PM
Saturday: 10 AM - 6 PM

Location

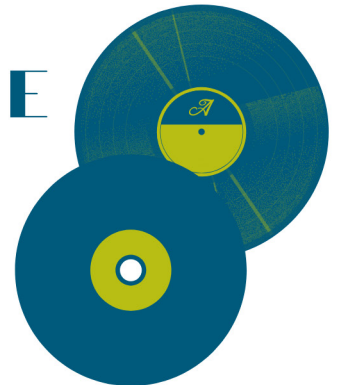
Wheaton Library and
Community Recreation Center
11701 Georgia Avenue
Wheaton, MD 20902
(301) 933-1110

**Shop our Virtual
Storefronts at
www.folmc.org**



Celebrate Record Store Day
Saturday, April 23
10 AM to 6 PM

**VINTAGE
VINYL
DROP**



**All Day Long at the
FOLMC Rockville Bookstore**
4886 Boiling Brook Pkwy
Rockville, MD 20852
301-984-3300 | www.folmc.org

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

Ways to Give

How can you help FOLMC fulfill our mission to support Montgomery County Public Libraries?
Let us count the ways!



BECOME A Member!

Members receive:

- Discounts at FOLMC bookstores,
- Advance notice of upcoming programs and other special events,
- A complimentary subscription to our quarterly print newsletter, and
- Monthly electronic newsletter, which includes upcoming events.



System-Wide

supports multiple branches



Designate Your Local Branch

- Aspen Hill
- Brigadier General Charles E. McGee
- Chevy Chase
- Connie Morella
- Correctional Facility
- Damascus
- Davis
- Deaf Culture Digital Library
- Gaithersburg
- Germantown
- Kensington Park
- Little Falls
- Maggie Nightingale
- Marilyn J. Praisner
- Noyes
- Olney
- Potomac
- Quince Orchard
- Rockville Memorial
- Twinbrook
- Wheaton
- White Oak



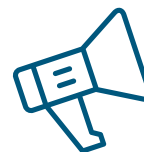
Libraries Forever Fund

ensures that libraries will be around both now and tomorrow



Friends Fund

provides emergency funding support to MCPL



Even More Ways to Support FOLMC

- Workplace Giving (many employers match!)
- Tell a friend
- Honor a loved one on their birthday
- Make a memorial tribute

How Do Your Donations Support the Library?

Friends of the Library, Montgomery County (FOLMC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that supports Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) and promotes lifelong learning. Memberships, donations, and proceeds from FOLMC's Bookstores enhance and supplement MCPL programming, equipment, and services.

We thank you for your support!



A Note from MCPL Director Anita Vassallo

Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) works hard to reach members of our community who may not know

about all that we have to offer, don't realize that library cards are free to everyone, haven't come across a library that doesn't charge fines, or are not even familiar with the concept of a public library. One of our most important efforts in this particular work is our award-winning four person Outreach Team.

The Outreach Team concept was developed, and the team launched, under the direction of MCPL's previous director, Parker Hamilton. The mission of the team is to go out to where people are, and let them know about MCPL. The team sets up at community events around the County, visits senior centers, provides storytimes at child care centers, stocks book collections at barbershops, participates in food giveaways, and provides a presence for MCPL wherever we can reach out to residents.

For years, the Outreach Team provided this service from their personal vehicles, loading books, tables, handouts, banners, laptops, hotspots, and even a full canopy into trunks and

backseats, then unloading all of their equipment back at their base at the Rockville Memorial Library. This is quite a task, but the team did it to provide their best service.

This year there is an exciting development. Through the Maryland State Library, MCPL won a grant of \$100,000 from ARPA funds to provide an electric Sprinter-type van for the Outreach Team.

This vehicle will allow the team to easily store and transport everything needed for all of the events they currently attend and more.

However – the cost of purchasing, outfitting and wrapping a van that will provide all that is needed was much more than the grant would cover. Most generously, the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County Inc. will be providing the additional funds needed to cover costs and make the Outreach Team mobile van a reality. As always, the FOLMC has stepped up to help MCPL with our mission to serve of our community. So, thanks to the FOLMC Board, and to all of the members who work so hard to support our library, you will see a fantastic library van tooling around the county in the next year.



With author and James Beard award winner
BRYANT TERRY

Celebrate National Library Week

A VIRTUAL  Library After Dark EVENT

Cooking With Chef Bryant Terry: Book Talk and Demo

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

7:00 PM

Tickets at www.folmc.org

friends OF THE LIBRARY
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS





21 Maryland Avenue
Suite 310
Rockville, Maryland 20850-2389

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

find

A BOOK TO LOVE AT
FRIENDS' BOOKSTORES

ROCKVILLE BOOKSTORE

Open for shopping and donations

Randolph Hills Shopping Center
4886 Boiling Brook Parkway
(301) 984-3300

WHEATON BOOKSTORE

Open for shopping and donations

Wheaton Library and Community
Recreation Center
11701 Georgia Avenue
(301) 933-1110

**Get social with all the latest
FOLMC and bookstore news.**

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 @folmcmd

 Friends of the Library,
Montgomery County

Shop FOLMC ONLINE

OUR VIRTUAL STOREFRONTS
ARE ALWAYS OPEN

BUY NOW AT WWW.FOLMC.ORG



This newsletter was sent to print on 3/17/22. For our latest free online events and most up-to-date information, visit our website, www.folmc.org.