

friends

HELPING
LIBRARIES REACH
NEW HEIGHTS

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

Raise Your Feet to Raise Money for Libraries!

Lace up your running shoes and start those warm-up stretches! We're hosting our first-ever 5K & 10K race—and we want you to join us.

Read. Run. Repeat. is the inaugural event of what we hope will become an annual tradition, held on Sunday, October 20 from 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM. Proceeds will benefit FOLMC in support of Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL).

The event takes place in Wheaton Regional Park, a 500-acre recreational area not far from the Wheaton Library and Community Recreation Center. Runners and walkers of all ages are invited to participate. For those who can't join us in person that day, we'll also host a virtual race.

Reading and running have many things in common: Both take discipline and can increase your focus, relieve stress, improve your mental health, and even help you sleep.

Read. Run. Repeat. occurs during National Friends of Libraries Week, a time where we celebrate the critical role our Friends play in supporting and raising funds for MCPL.

The goal of this event is to give our community a healthy way to come together, celebrate libraries—and have fun! Every finisher is awarded a medal, with additional prizes going to top performers in each age group.

So, to all our walkers and runners, join us at Read. Run. Repeat. in Wheaton Park (or virtually wherever you are), and support libraries this October.

Register through our partner Bishop's Events:

<https://bishopevents.com/event/2024-friends-of-the-library-of-montgomery-county-5k-10k/>



*Race Packets will be available for pickup at the event.
We recommend arriving one hour beforehand to check-in.*

Register by
Oct. 9 and you'll
receive a
Read. Run. Repeat.
t-shirt!



READ. RUN. REPEAT.

OCTOBER 20, 2024

friends OF THE LIBRARY
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

A race to benefit Friends of the Library, Montgomery County in support of Montgomery County Public Libraries.



Scan the QR code
to register!

Regular Registration (August 1 – September 30, 2024)

- ☆ \$30 – In-person 5K
- ☆ \$45 – In person 10K

Late Registration (October 1 – October 19, 2024)

- ☆ \$35 – In-person 5K
- ☆ \$50 – In person 10K

Day-Of Registration (October 20, 2024)

- ☆ \$40 – In-person 5K
- ☆ \$55 – In person 10K

Virtual Race Registration (August 1-October 20, 2024)

- ☆ \$15 – Virtual 5K (includes shipping)
- ☆ \$27 – Virtual 10K (includes shipping)

Happy 5th Birthday, Wheaton Library and Community Recreation Center!

It was a beautiful, late-summer Sunday on September 8, 2019, when hundreds of people gathered to take part in the ribbon cutting ceremony that officially opened the new Wheaton Library and Community Recreation Center.

It's hard to believe it's been five years—and countless visitors later—and we wanted to mark the occasion by taking a look at what makes this building so special.

Designed to bring people together through a state-of-the-art, shared-use space, the massive, 92,000 square-foot facility houses a 62,000-volume library, a gymnasium large enough to hold three basketball games, makerspaces and meeting rooms, a fitness center with elevated walking track, pottery studio, café, and the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County Bookstore—all under one roof.

It was the first building of its kind in Montgomery County, and it made headlines for representing a new kind of library experience. Since the early 2000s, libraries have evolved from quiet spaces that only offered books to vibrant community hubs where people gather together.

Wheaton is one of the most diverse communities in the country, and its African, Hispanic, and Caribbean cultures are celebrated through colorful panels along the center's walls—in fact, they were a community request. The building's open floor plan adds a sense of spaciousness and lets in lots of natural light, further imparting a sense of welcome.

The Friends of the Library, Montgomery County Wheaton Bookstore has long been a part of the Wheaton Library. Records indicate it started as early as 1976 as a monthly Booksale. FOLMC was formed by volunteers in 1982, and the Wheaton Bookstore became professionally staffed in 1999. "The Wheaton Bookstore has been a



monument for book loving families for nearly 50 years," says Lance Salins, FOLMC's Director of Business Operations. "My mother told me she shopped there before I was even born, while in undergrad. We hope the new space can become a favorite haunt for generations to come." Now in its bright and beautiful new home, it's open every day and offers a large selection of books, music, comics, board games, and puzzles—most of which are priced under \$3.

Here's to many more years, Wheaton Library!

FOLMC is thrilled to be accepted into the 2024 class of Spur Local

Formerly known as the Catalogue for Philanthropy, Spur Local conducted a rigorous application and selection process by a team of 170+ volunteer community advocates from local foundations, peer nonprofits, and the community.

It's an honor to be selected by community advocates across the region based on our impact and work. With your support, we can continue to make a difference right here, where we live: www.folmc.org.



From the Desk of Ari Z. Brooks



For years I ran, but now I'm a runner...

Passion is a powerful force. It changes you in profound ways, propelling you towards meeting—and exceeding—your goals.

They say when you have a passion for something, you'll always make time to do it, but we all know how, too frequently, life proves otherwise.

I had always enjoyed running, but I set my passion aside as my career grew and I raised my family, with brief interludes where I coached my daughters' Girls on the Run teams.

I started back up again more seriously during the pandemic, when running became about solitude and a way to test my physical abilities.

My passion for running became evident: I realized *this* is the person I really am, and so I've found ways to incorporate it into my daily schedule.

I want to invite you to bring your friends and family and join us at our Read. Run. Repeat. 5K & 10K event on October 20 and share your gifts and passions with others... to push yourself and realize all that you are capable of doing.

There's a walk if you don't want to run—and you can do it with a friend, so there's a great social aspect. You'll help us raise money for MCPL, plus every participant who crosses the finish line will receive a custom keepsake medal.

Just like reading, running takes dedication: We read to challenge ourselves mentally and run to challenge ourselves physically. Both are passions that bring joy, and both can be shared with others.

To the people who say, "I could never do that," I challenge you: "Today you can!"

FOLMC BRANCH BOOKSALES ARE



- Aspen Hill Library
- Brigadier General Charles E. McGee Library (Silver Spring)
- Chevy Chase Library
- Connie Morella Library (Bethesda)
- Damascus Library
- Davis Library (North Bethesda)
- Gaithersburg Library
- Germantown Library
- Kensington Park Library
- Little Falls Library
- Long Branch Library
- Maggie Nightingale Library (Poolesville)
- Olney Library
- Potomac Library
- Quince Orchard Library
- White Oak Library

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Staff Spotlight



Candice Grizer

(She/Her)

Manager, FOLMC Rockville Bookstore

The next time you're at the Rockville Bookstore, say "hi" to Candice—and congratulate her on her promotion!

How did you hear about FOLMC? What do you enjoy most about it? I found FOLMC within a month of moving to Montgomery County. Used bookstores are my favorite kind of place. I started as a customer then became a regular. This led to volunteering, which led to applying for a job. I was hired as a bookstore clerk in April 2022. I moved up to assistant manager and then the store manager position came open. I have never been so happy in a job in my life. I even have my husband, daughter, and son-in-law volunteering.

What's a fun memory of a library? When I was in elementary school (1,000 years ago), the school library was split into two parts for grades K-2 and 3-6. At the very beginning of second grade, the librarian started letting me into the "big kids" section with the understanding that she had veto power if a book was too mature. She taught me that being a reader was a good thing. She believed I could do it, so I did. Believe it or not, she and I are friends on social media, and we regularly discuss our current reads!

What do you like to read? That's a loaded question, lol. I prefer fiction. Until recently I would have said all genres except romance. However, not too long ago a volunteer suggested a book that I ended up liking. So now I can say all genres. I have read everything Stephen King has written. Elizabeth Stout, Frederik Backman, Shari Lapena, Toni Morrison, and Tracy Chevalier are some of my favorites. I always have at least two books going at once. My TBR shelf at home currently has 77 books on it.

What are your other hobbies? They are all book related somehow! I collect books, organize books, shop for books, curate my many lists of "currently looking for" books. I run a Little Free Library and the sharing library in our condo complex. I create reading journals for my friends. Oh! I thought of something. I love to cook. My husband and I enjoy camping and hiking. I like to take pictures and look for birds.

When did you move to Montgomery County? We moved here in October 2019. Our daughter and son-in-law live in Rockville as well. We have lived in Rochester, NY, Potsdam, NY, Suffolk, VA, Giessen, Germany, and spent 16 years in San Antonio, TX.

What do you like about it? Everything except the cost of living. We love how multi-cultural the area is. We love the easy access to public transportation. We love having so much within walking distance. We love the variety of restaurants and ethnic grocers. We love living somewhere that puts a premium on education and inclusion. People here are well-educated, well-read, open-minded, and accepting. We plan to stay in the DMV for good.

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

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FOLMC and bookstore news.**

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-  [Friends of the Library
Montgomery County](https://www.linkedin.com/company/friends-of-the-library)

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*Payroll deduction is easy and you
don't even have to think about it.*

- Longtime FOLMC Donor Chris Kelly