

friends

HELPING
LIBRARIES
REACH
NEW HEIGHTS

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

Read.Run.Repeat. Run/Walk for Libraries

October 19 | 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Wheaton Regional Park

New this year: 1-Mile Family Fun Run!

This October, support libraries by joining our family-friendly run/walk through the scenic trails of Wheaton Regional Park!

Back for its second year, Read.Run.Repeat. for Libraries is quickly becoming one of Montgomery County's best run/walk events. Taking place on Sunday, October 19 from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., participants can take part in a 5K or 10K through lakeside trails and trees emblazoned with beautiful fall foliage. Proceeds will benefit FOLMC in support of Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL).

Participants of all ages and abilities are welcome. This event is designed to be accessible to a wide range of individuals, from seasoned runners to beginners and casual walkers. Did we mention that it's dog-friendly?

NEW
THIS
YEAR!

A 1-Mile Family Fun Run exclusively for our youngest library lovers. The 5K/10K event begins at 8:45 a.m., while the Family Fun Run starts at 8:30 a.m.



Members of FOLMC Staff and Board of Trustees at last year's event. Credit: FOLMC



Scan to Register!

Register now through our partner Bishop's Events

Registration**

1-Mile Fun Run	\$20
5K Walk	\$30
after Sept. 30	\$35
10K Race	\$45
after Sept. 30	\$50



Virtual Run

with Medal	\$13
with Medal and Shirt	\$27

**T-shirts are guaranteed to runners registered before October 8. Our partner, Bishop Events, will order a limited amounts of extra t-shirts for those who register after that date, but they are on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants must have registered for the virtual event or be present on race day to receive a t-shirt.*

***Prices will increase on race morning by \$5 for each distance.*

Your registration includes: Finisher medal; and Race t-shirt (t-shirt guaranteed to runners registered before October 8*)

For those who can't join us in person, we also have a virtual registration option.

Why Join Us This Fall?

The goal of Read.Run.Repeat. is to bring people together with their families and friends, celebrate libraries, and support MCPL.

By joining us on October 19, you'll not only unite together with others with a shared passion for libraries; you'll also demonstrate how much MCPL matters to our community.

Participating in Read.Run.Repeat. offers numerous benefits



Register by Oct. 8 and you will receive an official Read.Run.Repeat. t-shirt! Credit: Bishop's Events

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From the Desk of Ari Z. Brooks

Executive Director, FOLMC

Happy 75th Anniversary, MCPL!

Montgomery County's library system was formally established in 1951; FOLMC celebrates this milestone by highlighting a few of our biggest accomplishments together.

Founded in 1982, FOLMC has been serving MCPL as an independent nonprofit whose fundraising supplements public funding for the library system's programs, materials, and equipment. Our work augments MCPL's ability to provide access to information, resources, and opportunities to all Montgomery County residents, both in the physical library buildings as well as online.

We work closely with MCPL, specifically with its Director, forming a vital partnership that supports library goals and aligns with its strategic plan. Our programs enhance the library's services and help connect the library with the community.

Here's a shortlist of some of our proudest accomplishments together:

- FOLMC was founded during the directorship of Agnes Griffen (1980 – 1996) who sought the community's support to make a good library system great. Montgomery County Government welcomed an independent county-wide organization to support the library system in cooperation with the Library Board.

- As part of Harriet Henderson's tenure from (1997-2005), FOLMC provided funding for MCPL session management software, which streamlined the process of logging in, ensuring that everyone gets a chance to use the computers. We also purchased "people counters," which provide valuable data on library usage and aids with resource allocation and space management. In addition, we created the first Teen Space at the Wheaton Library, which helped teens connect with resources, develop a sense of belonging, and foster a positive relationship with their local library.
- Under MCPL Library Director Parker Hamilton (2005-2017), FOLMC coordinated to assist in funding the award-winning Refresh program, which analyzed how the library buildings were being used and implemented minor building modifications, illustrating how our enhanced dollars could result in better use of MCPL facilities.
- Working with Anita Vassallo (2017-2024), we survived—and prevailed—through the Covid-19 pandemic. FOLMC paid for the Zoom licenses which enabled library programs and events to continue in a virtual setting throughout the crisis, as well as the cameras, equipment, and other technology needed to produce high-quality presentations online. In addition, FOLMC helped fund a brand-new Outreach Mobile, extending library services into the community.
- FOLMC is looking forward to working with current Library Director Darcell Graham as she shapes her vision for the libraries, ensuring it remains a vital resource for all County residents.

FOLMC celebrates the significant role MCPL has played in Montgomery County since its earliest beginnings. By creating a more inclusive, knowledgeable, and engaged community, it has enriched many lives along the way.

Read.Run.Repeat.

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that extend beyond personal fitness. Your support enables us to continue to invest in the programs, materials, technology, and staff development initiatives that contribute to the success of our library system.

Read.Run.Repeat. occurs during National Friends of Libraries Week, a time to celebrate the contribution of Friends of Libraries groups to libraries across the nation. We are grateful to all our Friends; without you, we wouldn't be able to fulfill our mission to strengthen, promote, and champion MCPL.

So, bring your kids and grandkids, bring your dogs, and enjoy a fun-filled morning—all while supporting a worthy cause this October. Register through our partner Bishop's Events: <https://bishopsevents.com/event/2025-friends-of-the-library-montgomery-county-5k-10k/>



Participants at the starting line of our 2024 event. Credit: Grace Babbitt



A Note from MCPL Director Darcell Graham



Dear Friends,

As summer winds down, I'm thrilled to share that this year's Summer Reading Challenge was our most successful yet, with more than 20,000 participants! We've loved seeing children, teens, and adults across Montgomery County reading, learning, and connecting with their library all season long.

Now, as we turn the page to fall, we're excited to help students and families start the school year strong with our new Student Hub. From free tutoring and test prep tools to early literacy programs, career resources, and college planning support—everything you need is just a library card away. If you don't have one yet, sign up today and download our free MCPL app to access these resources anytime, anywhere. Learn more at: <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/library/services/card.html>

This fall also marks the kickoff of MCPL's 75th Anniversary—a yearlong celebration of our history, impact, and future. Since 1951, we've grown from seven neighborhood branches into a cornerstone of the community. At the heart of our mission is a simple but powerful promise: every resident—regardless of income, housing status, immigration status, or identity—has access to the resources they need to learn, connect, and grow.

Our libraries are free, open, and welcoming to all. Join us as we celebrate 75 years of service with events and programs that honor our past and shape our future. Stay tuned for more information on upcoming anniversary celebrations!

Warmly,
Darcell



FOLMC thanks you for helping us make the 2025 Just for the Record: A Vinyl Day the best yet. Here are a few photos from the event.



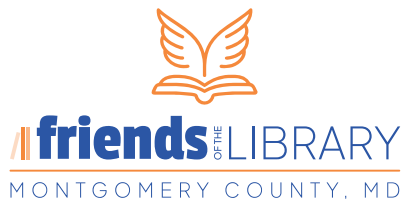
FOLMC Executive Director Ari Z. Brooks with DJ GI Joe and Shelley Johnson Carey, VP, FOLMC Board of Trustees. Credit: MCPL



MCPL Director Darcell Graham and Assistant Director for Branch Operations Patrick M. Fromm shop for vinyl.

Credit: MCPL

Save the date



Library Lovers Month Kickoff

January 31, 2026 at 11 a.m. | Kensington Park Library

21 Maryland Avenue
Suite 310
Rockville, Maryland 20850-2389

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

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