

Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc.

Friends of the Library Montgomery County, Inc. (FOLMC) a 501(c)(3), exists to help Montgomery County Public Libraries serve the public better.

GOALS

- (1) Promote visibility of Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL)
- (2) Enhance public libraries using supplemental monies raised through FOLMC dues, bookstores and fundraising activities
- (3) Advocate for libraries
- (4) Promote love of reading and life-long learning

FOLMC PROGRAMS

Cultural Events

Literary Luncheon series

Literary Feast series

Read, Eat & Give (REG)

Supplemental Funding for enhanced library services

- Children's programming
- Staff Development Day
- Laptop Lounge
- Teen Spaces
- Portable Circulation Devices
- Receipt Printers
- LEAP – workforce development
- Advocacy
- Library Lovers Month

Volunteer training and Chapter support



FOLMC PROMOTES READING

Adult programs to encourage reading and life long learning include book discussions. Friends Chapters assist with conversation clubs and give special programs throughout the year at local branches. These activities are free and open the public, and are hosted at different times to meet the needs of a wide variety of library constituents.

A major goal of FOLMC is to promote reading, which is done in part through its three low-cost used bookstores. All three stores offer books starting at \$0.25 for children's early literacy books, and most books are less than three dollars, which is a major benefit as it makes reading and giving the gift of reading affordable to all income levels.

FOLMC chapters hold book sales to help fundraise for their specific branches in addition to the funding from the county level.

FOLMC's bookstores low-cost books are available to the public throughout Montgomery County, with locations in Rockville, Wheaton, and the newest store in Gaithersburg to cater to Upcounty residents more easily. The funds from the books, all of which are donated as tax-deductible gifts from county residents, go back to support programming for the library. FOLMC welcomes book drives and utilizes many volunteers, including students earning service hours.

For more information, call 240.777.0020 or visit www.folmc.org.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, INC.

Fact Sheet

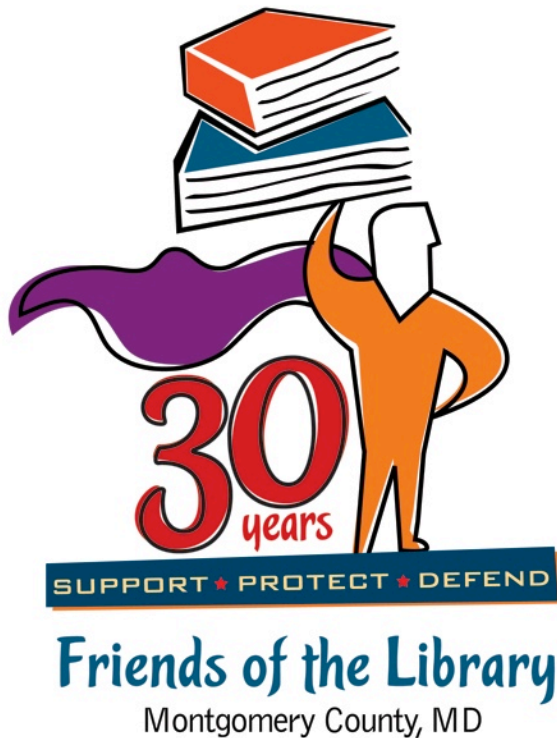
Friends of the Library, Montgomery County is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to enhancing public libraries and mobilizing the residents of Montgomery County to support their libraries.

Organizational Information:

- Established in 1982
- Governed by an independent Board of Trustees
- Hundreds of community volunteers
- 16 local chapters
- Thousands of dues paying members

Goals:

- Encourage literacy through programs and events
- Ensure library access for all residents, especially immigrant and low-income populations
- Provide funding for programs and materials that reflect the neighborhoods of each library
- Prepare for future information needs as our County continues to grow and change
- Encourage professional development of librarians



Funding Sources and Programs:

- Membership contributions
- Private and corporate donations
- Three full-time used bookstores (Wheaton Library, lower level, Randolph Hills Shopping Center and Gaithersburg on Quince Orchard Rd.)
- Literary Events
 - Literary Luncheons
 - Literary Feasts
 - Read, Eat & Give
- Bequests
- Friends' Endowment for the Future
- Partnerships with the business community
- Grants

FOLMC funded Programs/Projects:

- Summer Reading Programs
- Teen Read Week
- Teen Summer Reading
- Children's Programming
- Staff Development Day
- Laptop Lounge
- Teen Spaces
- Portable Circulation Devices
- Receipt Printers
- LEAP – workforce development
- Advocacy
- Library Lovers Month

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Friends Chapters

What is a Friends Chapter?

The Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc. (FOLMC), a 501(c)(3), is an umbrella organization which serves the *entire* Montgomery County Public Library system. Yet many of the branch libraries have their own FOL Chapters dedicated to improving that particular library branch.

There are Friends Chapters for many of the 21 Montgomery County Library branches. Each Chapter is to its library what the PTA Chapter is to its school.

The school system is funded by County taxes, but each school has a PTA that advocates and raises funds for their local school so that each one has the extras that enhance every student's education and experience.

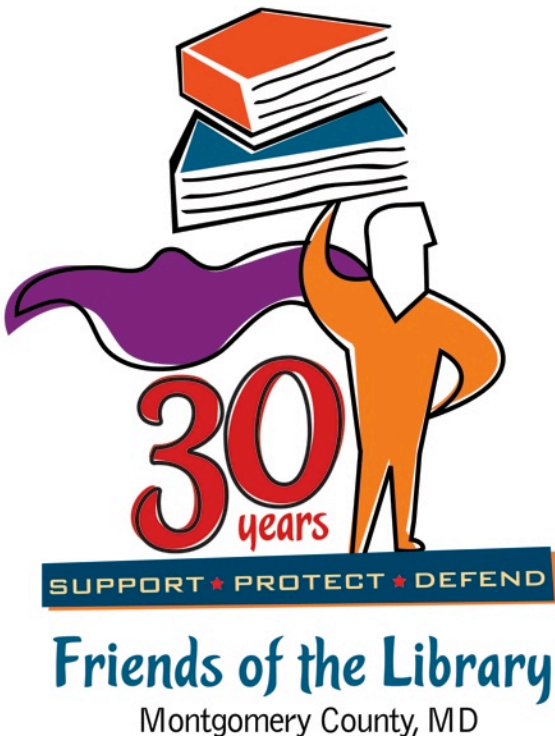
Friends of the Library Chapters have that same goal—they advocate and fundraise for their local libraries so that each library user has access to extras that enhance or enrich their library experience.

Volunteer Efforts

Each Chapter is volunteer run. Members collaborate with the Branch Librarian and Library Staff to sponsor special events and raise additional funds for their neighborhood library.

Many Chapters run a local book sale, the proceeds of which specifically enhance the collections, furnishings or programming at their branch.

Go to the Friends website at FOLMC.org and click on the name of any of the MCPL branches listed below to discover what Friends Chapters are doing in local library communities.



Chapter List

[Aspen Hill](#)
[Bethesda](#)
[Chevy Chase](#)
[Damascus](#)
[Davis](#)
[Gaithersburg](#)
[Germantown](#)
[Little Falls](#)
[Marilyn J. Praisner](#)
[Olney](#)
[Potomac](#)
[Quince Orchard](#)
[Rockville](#)
[Silver Spring](#)
[Twinbrook](#)
[White Oak](#)

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