

MC **Montgomery County**
PL **PUBLIC LIBRARIES**
A Place for Everyone



Report TO THE Community

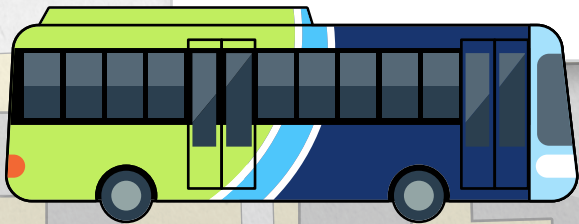




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MISSION, VISION, CORE VALUES

OUR MISSION

We provide equitable access to information, ideas, and experiences that spark imagination and expand possibilities for all.

OUR VISION

Montgomery County Public Libraries are an essential component of a just and equitable community, where all can thrive and grow.



OUR VALUES

Discovery

We are champions of curiosity, exploration, and growth. We support members of our community to expand their knowledge, learn new skills, spark ideas, and make connections.

Intellectual Freedom

We believe in free, open, and confidential access to ideas and information for all as a cornerstone of a thriving democratic society.

Equity

We believe all residents of Montgomery County deserve equal and inclusive access to all the library's resources, regardless of race, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, income, education, language, disability, and/or immigration status.

Respect

We strive to treat everyone with kindness, provide a safe and welcoming environment for all, and honor the knowledge and lived experience of all members of our community.

Service

We connect members of our community with the information they want and need, as efficiently as possible. We anticipate and adapt to the changing needs, desires, and expectations of community members.

Community

We are the backbone of our community, a place to connect with each other. We forge strong, reciprocal relationships with residents, community organizations, and other county departments in service of our shared goals.





County Executive Marc Elrich's Signature Initiatives

- **Preserving & Increasing Affordable Housing**
 - focus on eviction and homelessness
 - prevention, tenant education, limitations on rental increases, and rental assistance.
- **Building Bus Rapid Transit System**
 - a high quality, frequent, reliable transit plan for the 21st Century.
- **Fighting Climate Change**
 - goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions Countywide 80% by 2027 and achieve zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035—while prioritizing racial equity, social-justice, and public health.
- **Expanding Early Care and Education**
 - develop a comprehensive system of high-quality, accessible, and affordable-early childhood education.
- **Improving Economic & Community Development**
 - focus on economic growth and workforce development.
 - Institute for Health Computing
 - Montgomery County Green Bank
 - Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation
 - WorkSource Montgomery
- **Reimagining Public Safety**
 - improve interaction with public safety system through greater understanding of how mental & behavioral health, addiction, poverty, and other conditions affecting our residents.
- **Advancing Racial Equity & Social Justice**
 - through legislation, budget appropriations, supplemental appropriations, training for employees.



FROM THE MCPL DIRECTOR

Dear Community Members—

I am pleased to present the Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) 2023 Report to the Community. This year, the Department has focused on initiatives that support work on our four strategic goals, as well as some signature programs that have brought the residents from across the County together.

Our circulation continues to rebound from the pandemic, both of physical materials and eresources. Offerings like the Hoopla streaming service attract new users each month, and we are now one of highest using library systems in the world. We see the use of our physical collection, particularly of children's materials, stay strong, indicating that our residents still love and use actual books. We added a new collection of Launchpads this fiscal year—these are tablets with a wide range of targeted learning apps for children that can be borrowed for home use, but do not require Internet availability.

We launched our Hatchlings program pilot this year—this program is aimed at giving expectant parents information about their newborns brain development, and the ways new parents can support early literacy learning at this very first stage.

This fiscal year we hired our first ever Teen Program Manager, giving the Department an administrative staff member to coordinate and lead our services to teens. Programs for teens have increased, and teen advisory boards are in place at 18 of our branches already. We know this population needs focused attention, and so we are also placing teen specialists at each branch.

Libraries continue to act as community hubs—our 7th annual MoComCon took place in January at the Germantown Library, with great attendance and lots of fun programs. The Cosplay contest was a particular highlight.

Our Contemporary Conversations series has brought a diverse group of speakers to the County, and additionally we work with MCPS to bring these speakers to groups of high school students. This shows students that a career in the arts and humanities might be a possibility for them.

Use of our collaboration rooms remains high—study groups, work teams, tutors, even mahjong players get together in our rooms throughout the year.

So much more has gone on at MCPL in FY23—I hope that you have enjoyed using one of our resources, borrowing a book, using a study room or attending a program. There truly is something for everyone at the libraries.

We look forward to seeing what we will accomplish in FY2024. Thank you for your support of Montgomery County Public Libraries.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Anita Vassallo".

Anita Vassallo

Director

Montgomery County Library Board

Mr. Timothy Lighter
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STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

GOAL 1

Children 5 and under are ready for kindergarten

GOAL 2

Teens are ready for college and/or the workforce, and to be lifelong users of the library

GOAL 3

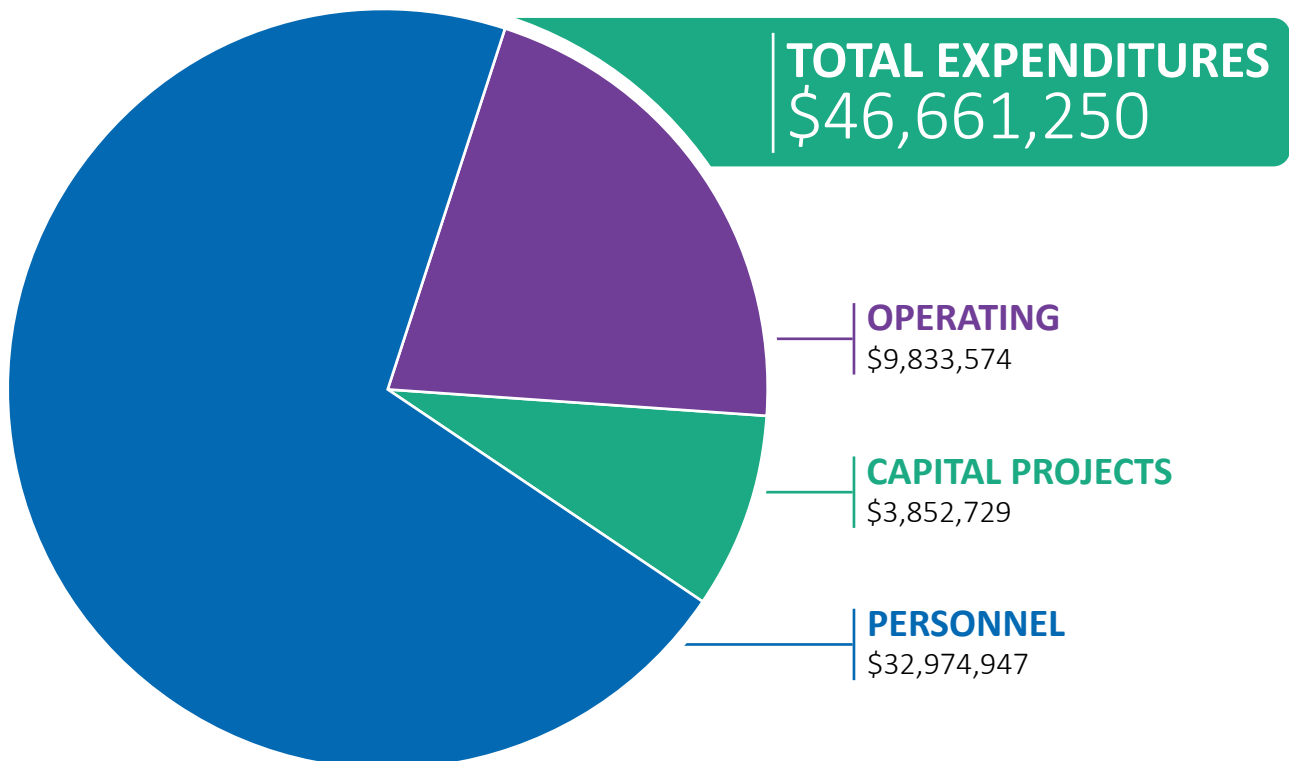
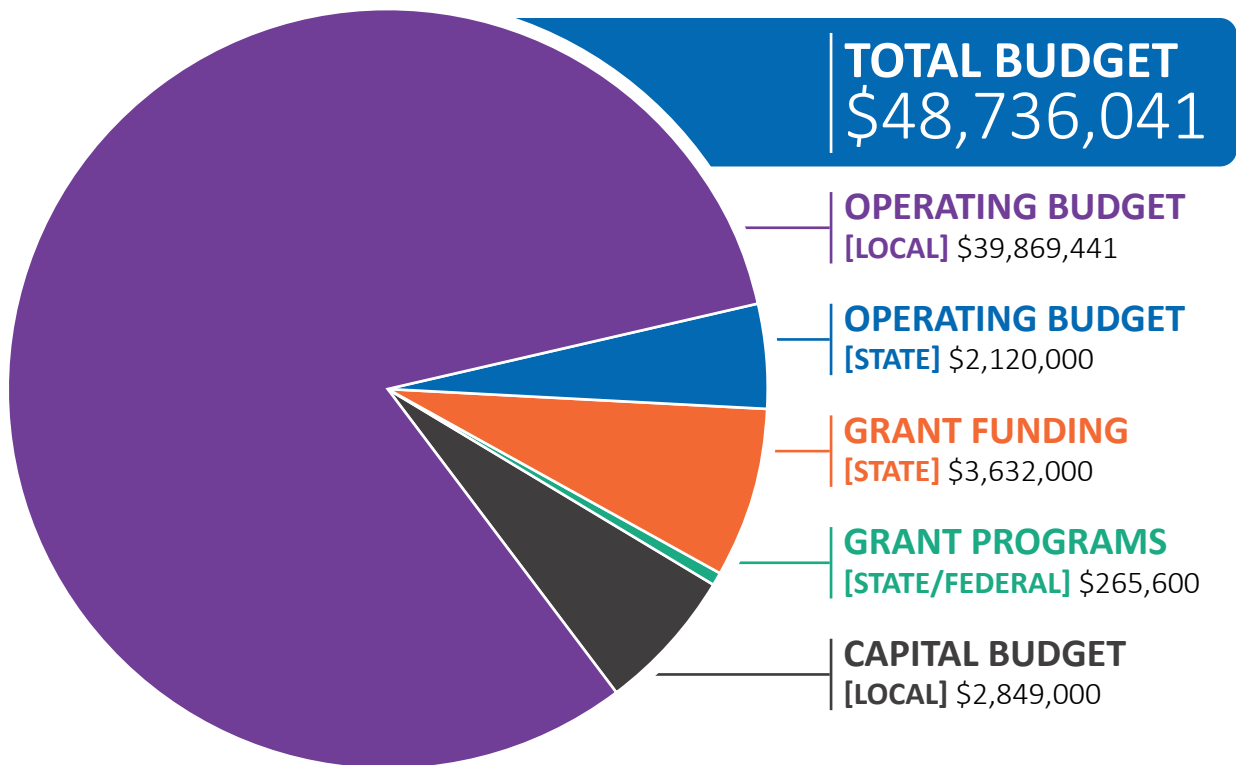
Speakers of languages other than English can participate fully in American society

GOAL 4

Residents with limited access to technology and/or the internet can navigate a digital world to get what they need



FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET



MCPL BY THE NUMBERS

22 LIBRARY
BRANCHES

Including the
Correctional Facility Library



Total Circulation
7,715,214

2,464,227

Adult materials circulation

323,662

Young adults materials circulation

4,927,325

Juvenile materials circulation



554,892

Active Users



7,272
Programs

189,168

Program Attendees



3,491,660
Library Visits



1,337,969
eBook/eAudiobook
Collection Inventory

2,427,021
eBook/eAudiobook
Circulation



41,314
Interlibrary
Loans Received

8,562
Interlibrary
Loans Fulfilled

1,765,362

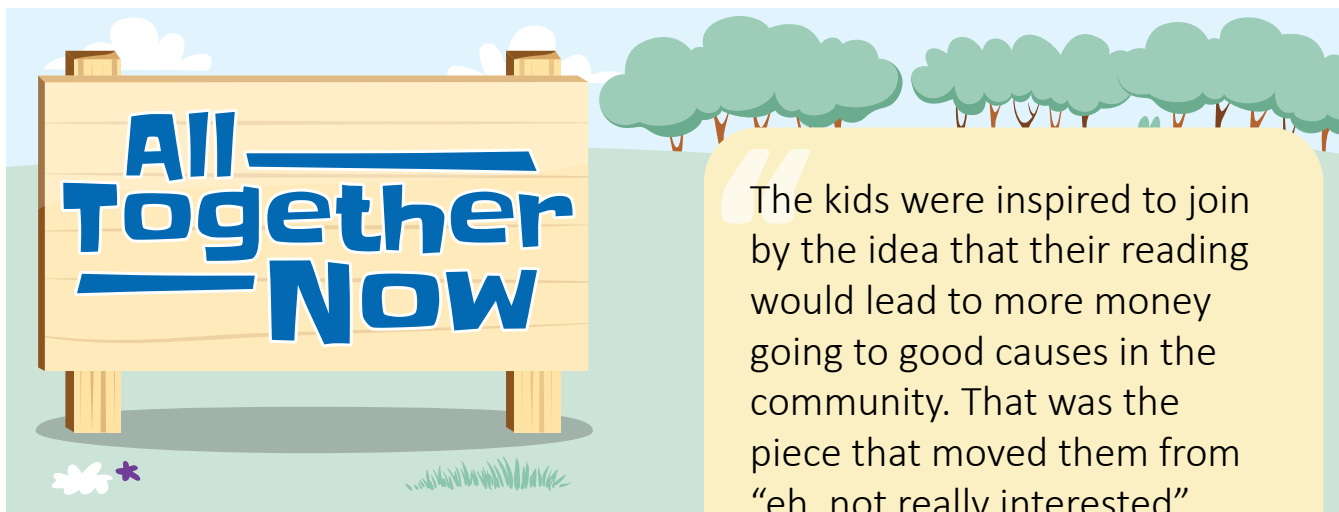


Physical Collection Inventory

16,426 hours



Meeting Rooms Use



Summer Reading Challenge!

MCPL's annual signature system-wide event for children, teens, and families. SRC gives kids and teens an opportunity to fill their summer with idea-sparking books and activities. Participants work together toward community-wide goals in support of the theme.

This summer, in partnership with Friends of the Library, Montgomery County (FOLMC) and the Washington Nationals, MCPL registered over 14,000 participants, ages 0–17. Focusing on the 2023 theme, All Together Now, MCPL and FOLMC teamed up with Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center and Friends of Montgomery County Animals, Manna Food Center, and Montgomery Parks Foundation to help children and teens spread kindness to local animals, people, and the planet. Participants embraced the challenge. As a result, pets found forever homes, 300 families were fed over 800 meals, and 460 solar panels will soon be powering local parks.

The kids were inspired to join by the idea that their reading would lead to more money going to good causes in the community. That was the piece that moved them from “eh, not really interested” to being willing to do it. And then they really got into logging lots and lots of books.





Hatchlings: In the Nest

Hatchlings

A Maryland State Library sponsored program developed by the creator of Mother Goose on the Loose, Dr. Betsy Diamant-Cohen. The Hatchlings program helps expectant and new parents build the skills they need to be their child's first teachers.

In March 2023, MCPL piloted Hatchling, Part One, Ready to Hatch, using songs and fun activities to help expectant parents learn about their baby's brain and body development and how to set their child up for success by encouraging reading from the start. Attendees received a free book, an early literacy activity calendar, and bilingual Spanish/English song sheets.

Really excited for the follow up programming. As a couple planning on raising our child in a bilingual English-Spanish speaking household, programs like these are magnificent!



Maryland
**State Library
Agency**



FY23 HIGHLIGHTS—PROGRAMS

Wizards Winter Reading Challenge

To help promote youth literacy across Maryland, the District and Virginia, the Wizards Winter Reading Challenge provides participants with the ability to connect with their local library while encouraging them to build a positive reading culture.

MCPL and the Washington Wizards teamed up with the D.C. Public Library, the Prince George's County Memorial Library System, the Alexandria Library and Fairfax County Public Library to get young people reading this winter with the "Wizards Winter Reading Challenge." The free challenge ran from December 2022 to March 2023.

School-aged children and teens, ages 3–19, signed up and earned badges that encouraged reading for pleasure, joining interactive events and building healthy habits.



WASHINGTON WIZARDS
WINTER READING CHALLENGE

This Challenge is a fun way to inspire children, teens and their families to enjoy reading, visit their local library, connect with their community and find different ways to be physically active this winter.

WASHINGTON WIZARDS WINTER READING CHALLENGE
JAN. 3 - MAR. 31 | FOR EARLY READERS, KIDS & TEENS

This winter, Montgomery County Public Libraries and the Washington Wizards challenge you to read! Earn the Reading badge and at least 2 other badges by completing activities below. Then, head to your local library to turn in your game board and pick up a prize while supplies last. Some lucky raffle winners will receive 2 tickets to the April 9, 2023 Wizards game.

NAME _____
LIBRARY _____
EMAIL _____

READING
Fill in a clock for every 20 minutes you read, and write the title of the book. Fill in all of the clocks to earn the Reading Badge.

CONNECT & SHARE
Answer the questions below to earn the Connect & Share Badge.

What is your favorite thing about the library?

Share a favorite activity in your neighborhood.

Montgomery County Public Libraries has everything you need to help you earn your Winter Challenge badges! From exciting reads for every age and interest, to events, to opportunities to share online, your library card will set you up for success. Learn more at mcpl.link/winter-reading-challenge



FY23 HIGHLIGHTS—PROGRAMS

MoComCon

An all day, all ages event celebrating all things comics, graphic novels, and fandoms!

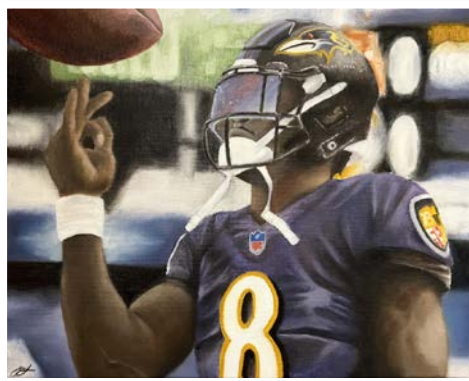
MCPL hosted its 7th annual free comic convention on January 14th at the Germantown Library. MoComCon 2023, was MCPL's first con to be held in upcounty, and after two years, to be back in person. A month of lead-up events ushered in a day packed with exciting activities. The more than 2,000 attendees enjoyed: a superhero storytime; strolling through a life-sized Candy Land; perusing the FOLMC book sale; listening to the Metropolitan Gamer Symphony Orchestra; selfie, coloring, and Beat Saber VR stations; a scavenger hunt; making buttons; and participating in the art, essay and cosplay contests.

MOCOMCON

V//////2023



“We LOVE MOCOMCON!
My kids have participated
almost every single year.”



FY23 HIGHLIGHTS—PROGRAMS

Contemporary Conversations

A series of talks about cultural and current issues with journalists, authors, and other relevant speakers. Sponsored by MCPL and Friends of the Library, Montgomery County.

MCPL's Contemporary Conversation series welcomed seven very talented, exciting creators and innovators to the FY23 series. The speakers shared their journeys, passions, and motivations with those who attended the in-library programs. MCPL coordinated with Montgomery County Public Schools to have many of the speakers share their stories and experiences with local high school students.



Michael Twitty

The connection between the foods and traditions of the African Atlantic and the global Jewish diaspora

Sheree Renée Thomas

Afrofuturism & Diversity in Sci-Fi, in celebration of Black History Month

Tyehimba Jess

Work as a poet and fiction writer, in celebration of National Poetry Month

Karen Washington and Jabari S. Walker

Urban farming, sustainability, and the environment

Emanuel Xavier and Regie Cabico

The importance of poetry, storytelling and the spoken word



FY23 HIGHLIGHTS—RESOURCES & SERVICES

Launchpads

Tablets designed specifically for children preschool age through sixth grade. These pre-loaded tablets, only available through public libraries, do not require Wi-Fi or internet. The tablets are populated with carefully chosen content of various themes including educational apps, games, videos, stories and activities focusing on specific topics.

In August 2022, MCPL began loaning Launchpads. The available content is:

- “Early Literacy” for emerging readers
- “Language Learning” for an introduction to languages and cultures
- “Math” from fundamentals through elementary skills
- “Pre-K Academy” to help children prepare for kindergarten
- “Reading Academy” to help children with verbal, reading, comprehension and writing skills
- “STEAM Academy” to help children become problem solvers and make connections between their everyday world and science, technology, engineering, art and math concepts

In addition to the benefits of the curated activities, using the tablets help children learn, practice and improve their digital literacy skills—a key component of a 21st Century education.



PLAYAWAY®
launchpad

Welcoming Kits

A curated 30-book, all-ages picture book collection that powerfully and uniquely depicts global, modern migration and the generations that build their lives in a new home. Each book contains a unique set of discussion questions written by I’m Your Neighbor Books and their cultural advisors.

MCPL purchased Welcoming Library kits created by I’m Your Neighbor Books, a nonprofit striving to facilitate engagement with children’s books that represent New Arrival and New American communities. Welcoming Library’s are a reflection of the diverse nature of Montgomery County, and support MCPL’s Vision that the county’s libraries are an essential component of a just and equitable community, where all can thrive and grow. The kits, funded by Friends of the Library Montgomery County, rotate throughout the system.

FY23 HIGHLIGHTS—RESOURCES & SERVICES

Outreach Team

The Outreach Team extends the reach of MCPL resources, services and collections to non-users, potential customers and new Americans where they live, gather and meet.

MCPL's Outreach Team is small in number but mighty in impact. The Team is able to connect with residents of all ages and reach beyond the physical library to the hundreds of thousands of community members to share the myriad services and resources offered by MCPL. Events attended in FY23 included:

- Health fairs
- Back to school nights
- Community days and fairs
- STEAM and STEM festivals
- County budget forums
- Heritage festivals
- Literacy nights
- Childcare conferences
- Health and Human Services maternity programs
- Community food distributions
- Safety fairs
- Parent cafés
- Art festivals
- Career days
- Older Adult fairs
- Teentober
- Opening ceremonies and kickoffs
- Homeless resource fairs



FY23 HIGHLIGHTS—FACILITIES

Potomac Library Refresh

The Montgomery County award winning Library Refurbishment Program was conceived to provide a structured process to modernize all 21 County libraries with limited funds on a more timely basis to better meet the changing needs of residents.

The Potomac Library reopened with a ribbon cutting ceremony and celebration in April 2023. The refresh for the library, under the Library Refurbishment Level-of-Effort initiative in the County's Capital Improvements Program, included:

- Replacement of all flooring
- Reconfiguration and updating of shelving
- Painting throughout the building
- New service desk
- New lighting
- Redesign of the children's reading nook
- Installation of security equipment
- Addition of lounge seating and study areas
- Replacement of entry doors
- Creation of a family restroom
- Updating of interior and exterior signs



Plaque Unveiled at Rockville Memorial Library

"To honor County residents Killed in Action in service to our Country in military conflicts since our County's founding in 1776, the Rockville Library was renamed the Rockville Memorial Library at the request of Global War on Terror Gold Star family members and the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs."

In January 2023, a plaque was dedicated at the Rockville Memorial Library recognizing the name change of the facility. The Rockville Memorial Library was originally called Rockville Library. In November 2002, former County Executive Ike Leggett signed a proclamation renaming the library to honor "those who have given their lives defending the principles of freedom during every major military conflict and will be deserving of the highest gratitude and honor by the people of Montgomery County."

The plaque is located in the lobby on the first floor of the library.

FY23 HIGHLIGHTS—SALUTE TO THE STAFF

MCPL Staff is Awesome!

The staff of Montgomery County Public Libraries diligently work to provide the resources, services and information residents want and need to thrive and grow.



I visited the library this past Saturday and noticed a staff person handle a long line of people effortlessly. She seems very experienced with the job and was able to quickly take care of everyone in line. I was at the back of the line and didn't have to wait more than a few minutes before being helped. She definitely deserves a big round of applause. It can't be easy doing that day in and day out.

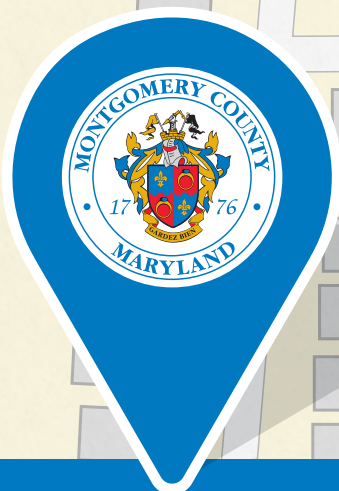


Please say thank you to your front counter staff there at Rockville. They have been uniformly helpful and courteous in all of my visits. This in dealing with sometimes out of the ordinary items (e.g. ILL requests and borrowings). They really should get some kudos.



I have referred many people I know to take their kids to the Germantown Branch and take advantage of the positive and encouraging learning experience.





County Councilmembers

Evan Glass
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Andrew Friedson
Vice President

Gabe Albornoz
Marilyn Balcombe
Natali Fani-González
Will Jawando
Sidney Katz

Dawn Luedtke
Kristin Mink
Laurie-Anne Sayles
Kate Stewart

A Place for Everyone



www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library