

Director's Report
April 2012

Celebrate National Library Week, April 8-14, 2012

National Library Week (NLW), held annually in April, is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. This year's theme is "You Belong @ your library." I encourage you to join in the celebration by visiting us online or in person, checking out books and other materials, using the great resources we have available, and attending our programs.

Budget News

On March 15, the County Executive submitted his FY13 Recommended Operating Budget to the County Council for approval. The Budget recommends increasing the FY13 Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) budget by \$2.7 million and fifteen new positions. If the Council approves the Executive's recommendations for MCPL, our FY13 budget will be \$31.2 million. This is more than a 9.5% increase from the FY12 approved budget.

The Council will conduct public hearings on the operating budget in early April. The Council Health and Human Services Committee will conduct a worksession on the Library's budget on April 18 at 9:30 a.m.; and if needed, a second session on April 27 at 9:30 a.m. The full Council will hold a worksession on our budget in May, and make final decisions on the entire budget just before Memorial Day. The FY13 budget will be implemented on July 1. For more information about the schedule of budget hearings, you may visit the [Office of Management and Budget website](#).

A SHOUT OUT to Our Teens

During the month of March, MCPL held two special programs with a teen focus that were very successful. On March 13, over 70 teens packed the Bethesda Library to hear popular teen author, Ally Carter discuss her popular *Gallagher Girls Series* and *Heist Society*.

Members of the Teen Advisory Group (TAG) were at the Rockville Memorial Library on Sunday, March 11 to help customers learn how to utilize the MCPL e-library materials from home. The teens showed customers how to download e-materials to their iPhone, Nook, iPad and iPod. This program received very positive feedback from both the teens and adults who participated in the program.

A special thank you to our teens for their enthusiasm and support!

Enhancing Your Library Experience through New Technology

I am pleased to announce that MCPL recently received a grant from the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc. to purchase e-devices that our staff will use to answer customers' questions about downloading e-library materials to their iPhone, Nook, Kindle or iPad. We will also use these devices in order to continue to conduct volunteer led mini technology clinics.

Starting in mid-April, our public catalog will look a little different. Based on your comments and feedback to us we've been working on a project to improve your search experience. Please test drive our new look, and let us know what you think by completing a brief online survey that will be available through our website.

Coming in May, MCPL will implement two new services for customers: the *Boopsie* Mobile App and *Freegal Music*. The mobile app will allow customers to remotely search the library catalog and place holds, download digital books and media, get information about programs and events at the library and locate library branches.

Freegal Music is a downloadable music service that will give customers access to millions of songs in the Sony digital music catalog. Library cardholders can download up to three songs a week. Music can be downloaded in MP3 format that can play on any MP3 player, including the iPod. Downloaded music can also be loaded into iTunes on both PCs and MACs.

National Library Week and April Programs

MCPL is hosting several special programs throughout the month. Here are a few program highlights.

The "Tumbleweeds" perform country, bluegrass and cowboy music from the rich American music tradition at Marilyn J. Praisner Library on April 14.

On April 21, the Quince Orchard Library will host "UTSAV: Glimpses of India," an annual festival of Indian music and dance. The program features music and dance and a Penny Theater presentation. Online registration is required.

All of our special programs are made possible through the continuing support of the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc., and local Friends chapters.

Financial Literacy Month

Did you know that MCPL offers a variety of information and materials for all ages on personal finance and money management? April is Financial Literacy Month, and we encourage all of our customers to check out our materials on personal finance basics, retirement planning, finance tips for children, teens, and adults, and information about free financial education classes. See our [Financial Literacy guide](#).

Earth Day 4.22.12

On April 22, people across the world will come together to discuss ways to ensure a sustainable future for our planet. At the local level, MCPL is here to connect you with environmental education information to help you stay informed about how you can help **Mobilize the Earth™** and participate in Earth Day 2012. [Visit us online](#) for more information.

Everything from book discussions -- to foreign film showings -- to live music is happening at your local library in April. Come and see why MCPL is more than just a place; we're a destination!