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**First Montgomery County Eritrean Cultural Festival  
To be Held at Wheaton Library**  
*Hosted by Friends of the Library, Montgomery County,  
Office of Community Partnerships, Eritrean Embassy*

The music, song, dance and food of Eritrea will be showcased at the first Montgomery County Eritrean Cultural Festival on Wednesday, August 6 at the Wheaton Library, 11701 Georgia Ave., from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Located in the horn of Africa along the Red Sea, Eritrea was the first of the few African countries to be colonized by Italy. Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia in 1991 and today has a population of nearly 5 million people.

“The Eritrean community has celebrated its rich heritage all over the world with major feasts and festivals. It is with great pride that we continue this tradition in Montgomery County, Maryland where there is a growing number of Eritrean residents,” said Freweini Abraham, Educational and Cultural Officer at the Embassy of Eritrea.

Montgomery County will join communities in Sweden, Germany, Australia, Holland, Italy, California and Washington, DC that traditionally host celebrations of Eritrea’s rich cultural and artistic heritage.

“We are pleased to help facilitate multicultural understanding and show support of our residents of Eritrean heritage” said Bruce Adams, director of the Montgomery County Office of Community Partnerships.

The program is sponsored by Friends of the Library, Montgomery County Inc., the Embassy of Eritrea in Washington, D.C. and the Montgomery County Office of Community Partnerships.

This year, Friends of the Library celebrated 25 years of enhancing the programs and

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## **Eritrean Cultural Festival**

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services of Montgomery County Public Libraries. The organization also operates two full-time bookstores in Wheaton and Rockville.

For more information about the Eritrean Cultural Festival or Friends of the Library, call 240-777-0020 or visit [www.folmc.org](http://www.folmc.org).

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