

# Fox Library celebrates 100 years

The celebration marks 100 years of libraries in East Arlington

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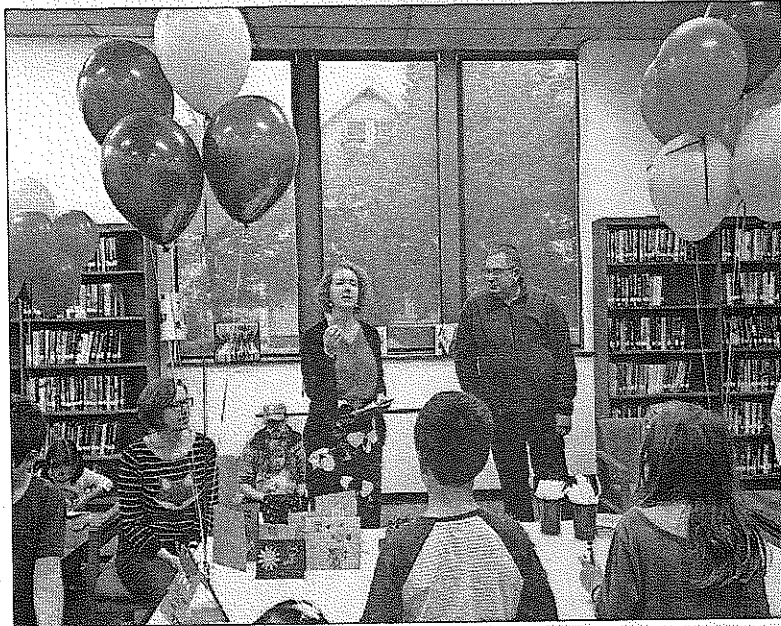
Though the Edith M. Fox Library building is only 65 years old, 2017 marks the 100th year of a library branch in East Arlington. The actual anniversary of the library was in February, but the celebration was held in the fiction section of Fox on Oct. 26.

At the celebration, patrons crafted birthday cards for the library, which were later hung on a bulletin board in the lobby. After a few words from branch librarian Anna Litten, Library Director Andrea Nicolay and local historian Richard Duffy, the birthday cake was cut to a chorus of "Happy Birthday."

"The Fox Library reaching this very important milestone, it's a milestone that many said never would have happened," said Duffy. "It has happen. It's happening not only with a lot of joy but with a lot of hope for the future so that we can think about what the 125th, 150th and 200th might be like here."

In 2003, the town of Arlington considered closing the Fox branch after a failed tax override vote. A group of community members banded together to save the branch library and raise awareness of the value it contributed to the town. Hilary Rappaport, the current chair of the Friends of the Fox Library, noted that once they had saved the library, there was no reason to stop supporting it.

Their contributions allowed the library to open on Saturdays, which began in September 2017. The group



Library Director Andrea Nicolay (left) and local historian Richard Duffy (right) talking to patrons at the Fox Library's 100th birthday party on Oct. 26, 2017.

[WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTO/ABBI MATHESON]

continues to raise funds to purchase books, fund programs and improvements to the space.

Both the Robbins and Fox libraries will be undergoing a reimagining project, with

designs slated to be finished in January of 2018.

"My favorite kinds of stories are not the books we actually read in the library, it's the connections we make with one another," said Litten.