



Rockville Reports

FEBRUARY 2012 • VOL. 58 #2

• A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF ROCKVILLE •

Rockville City Police Honored

The Rockville City Police Department was recognized as one of 14 law enforcement agencies honored in 2011 for overall community crime prevention programming by the Governor's Crime Prevention Institute. This is the 10th time Rockville Police have earned the award.

"We're very proud to receive this recognition," said Rockville Police Chief T.N. Treschuk. "Rockville Police officers are committed to ensuring the safety of all of Rockville's residents, workers and visitors. The success of any crime prevention programming depends upon the partnerships the police forge with the community."

Each year, the Maryland Community Crime Prevention Institute, along with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions, and the Maryland Crime Prevention Association present the Annual Governor's Crime Prevention Awards.

The Rockville City Police Department earned the distinction for its work to provide community programs on personal security, residential security and commercial security.

For more information about its programs, go to www.rockville.md.gov/police.

Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Work Begins

The Rockville Mayor and Council have begun work on the City's Fiscal Year 2013 budget, receiving both a first budget preview and holding one public hearing for residents to share their thoughts on City spending last month.

A second budget preview, scheduled for Monday, Feb. 27, will give the Mayor and Council more opportunity to provide direction for the City Manager's FY13 proposed Operating and Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budgets. Additional information about revenues and expenditures will be available to share with the Mayor and Council on Feb. 27.

On Jan. 23, the Mayor and

Council received the first budget preview, including an overview of key expenditures and revenue estimates. The second part of that preview was held Jan. 30.

The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the City and is used to account for

the majority of the City's daily operations. Many of the City's core services and administrative functions are supported through the General Fund.

The major revenue sources for the General Fund include property taxes, income tax, county tax duplication, admission and amusement tax, hotel tax, and Highway User and Police Protection funds. These revenue sources total 78 per-

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AT A GLANCE

- Mayor and Council Budget Preview – Part 2: 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 27, City Hall.
- Presentation of recommended FY13 budget: 7 p.m., Monday, March 26, City Hall
- Public hearings will follow budget presentations in April and May.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The Mayor and Council invite you to share your thoughts on the budget, and have provided several ways to hear from you. Residents can speak at scheduled public hearings, at any Citizens Forum during regularly scheduled Mayor and Council meetings on Mondays at 7 p.m., send an email to mayorcouncil@rockville.md.gov, and talk with the mayor and one council member during drop-in sessions held monthly before the start of a Mayor and Council meeting.

TO LEARN MORE

Visit the "It's Your Money" page at www.rockville.md.gov/budget.



CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN ROCKVILLE...

Students from Rock Terrace School performed at the City's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration in January.

Read page 2 for a preview of the City's annual commemorative performance, discover more about Rockville's black history and learn about students who practice Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s teachings.

Watch the celebration and other videos about the City's black history at www.youtube.com/cityofrockville.



City Manager Search Begins

Recruitment and hiring of a new city manager for the City of Rockville has begun, following Mayor and Council work with an executive search firm to craft a community and position profile for the City's top administrator.

The executive search firm, Springsted, Inc., has been working since last fall to put together a profile using information obtained during interviews with council members, staff and community leaders, research of the City Charter and City Code, materials extracted from the City's website and other online resources.

The position will be advertised in February. The Mayor and Council are then scheduled to receive a report on the potential candidates in a closed session in March and they will create a list of those they wish to interview.

Interviews will take place in late March or early April.

The Mayor and Council hope to name a new city manager in April.

In the position profile, the Mayor and Council outlined current and future issues affecting Rockville that will be a top consideration in filling the post. Those include growth management and development issues, economic competitiveness, maintenance and improvements of existing infrastructure, development of the City's borders, technology needs, finance and budget, and maintenance of strong community relationships.

Scott Ullery announced July 5 that he would retire, after seven years as the City's top administrator. His final day was Dec. 2. The Mayor and Council named Assistant City Manager Jenny Kimball as Acting City Manager while the search for Ullery's replacement continues.

City Hall to Close for Presidents Day

Recycling and Refuse Collected on Regular Schedule

Rockville City Hall will be closed for Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 20, and several Rockville facilities and programs will operate on a limited schedule.

Parking fees at City-owned meters will be suspended on Presidents Day.

Residents will have their recycling and refuse collected on their regular day. Call 240-314-8568 for more information or visit www.rockville.md.gov/recycling-refuse/index.html.

The following list outlines the schedule for City of Rockville facilities and programs:

- The Rockville Senior Center will be closed.
- Rockville Civic Center Park offices will be closed.
- The Glenview Mansion and the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery will be closed.
- The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Box Office will be closed.
- The Twinbrook Community Recreation Center will be open 6 a.m.-9:30 p.m.
- The Lincoln Park Community Center will be open 9 a.m.-9:30 p.m.
- Thomas Farm Community Center will be open 6 a.m.-9:30 p.m.
- Croydon Creek Nature Center will be open 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will be open regular hours.
- RedGate Municipal Golf Course will be open, weather permitting.

For more information about schedules for specific facilities or programs or information on recycling and refuse collection, call 240-314-5000 or visit www.rockville.md.gov.

Get Into It...

PAGE 3 Economic Summit Next Steps
The Mayor and Council discuss how to build on successes.

PAGE 4 What is bulk trash?
Learn about the City's special collection procedures and how you can dispose of bulk items.

PAGE 6 Grab Your Sweetheart
Celebrate Valentine's Day in Rockville with your friends and family.

PAGE 8 Taff Awardee Improves Life for Disabled People
Van Grack honored in January for his work.

MAYOR & COUNCIL
111 Maryland Ave.
Rockville, Maryland
20850-2364

PRESORTED
STANDARD
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PERMIT NO. 63

ECR WSS
LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Celebrate Black History

HIGHLIGHTS IN FEBRUARY



Exhibit at Rockville Memorial Library Showcases Community's History

During February the Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave., will showcase an historic exhibit "Lorenzo Dow Turner: Lincoln Park to Leading Scholar."

Turner grew up in Rockville's Lincoln Park neighborhood during the early 1900's and became a nationally recognized scholar. Photos of Turner and items that belonged to him will be showcased to shed light on the history of African Americans in Rockville.

The exhibit will be displayed in the lobby of the library and open to the public during normal business hours: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

Rockville's Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Viewable Online

The City of Rockville, on Jan. 16, honored Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday with a program and community reception. This was the 40th year the City has recognized Dr. King's birthday.

More than 500 people attended the event at Richard Montgomery High School.

If you missed the program or want to view it again, visit the channel 11 YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/cityofrockville.

The guest speaker was JC Hayward, news broadcaster and anchor for WUSA 9. The following artists performed:

- Kendra Holt, pianist
- Hadjira Ishaq, cellist
- Kalinka
- Syri Parker
- Reverb
- Richard Montgomery High School Jazz Band
- Rock Terrace School Chorus
- Soulfuldisiac
- Soul in Motion and Body Moves
- Contemporary Dance Company

For more information about the annual program visit www.rockvillemd.gov/events/MLKday.htm.



LEARN MORE ON CHANNEL 11

Watch the City of Rockville's MLK birthday celebration at www.youtube.com/cityofrockville



The Finest! Performance Troupe will perform this month.

Rockville Celebrates Black History Month with 'A Change Gon' Come'

The Finest! Performance Troupe presents its 17th annual African-American Heritage Production, "A Change Gon' Come" at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre at the Rockville Civic Center

Park, 603 Edmonston Drive.

A creative telling of the life and struggle of Harriet Tubman, the show will entertain and educate.

Through music, dance and poetry "A Change Gon' Come" explores the history of African Americans in our nation.

Kashi-Tara, an Actors' Equity Association professional, has written this original scripted work and provides artistic direction and original choreography for the performance.

The Finest! Performance

Troupe includes 40 members ranging in age from 5 through adult. The troupe, founded in 1989, is comprised of students from Rockville and surrounding areas and

performs shows throughout the year. This show features a cast of 25.

Tickets for the show are \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors 60 and older and children 12 and younger. Group rates are available for groups of 20 or more.

To purchase tickets, call the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre Box Office at 240-314-8690 or visit in person 2-7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Tickets are also available online at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre or from performers in the show. ❖

DON'T MISS 'A CHANGE GON' COME'
WHEN: Friday, Feb. 17, 8 p.m.
 Saturday, Feb. 18, 2 p.m.
WHERE: F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre
 603 Edmonston Drive
COST: \$15 and \$10



NEWLY INSTALLED MEMORIAL SALUTES ROCKVILLE'S HISTORY... *The William Gibbs Jr. memorial artwork by Charlotte Lees in Rockville Town Square honors Gibbs' work as an educator, leader and advocate in the nation's early civil rights movement. The artwork is located in a walkway on Gibbs Street.*

Take a Walking Tour of Rockville's African American Heritage

The City's African American Heritage Walking Tour documents some of the many people and places in town center that played significant roles in black history from the 18th century through the 20th.

The tour includes 18 sites and buildings marked by full-color exhibit panels, which highlight the geography of this culture and tell stories of struggles and achievements in the face of oppression and segregation.

Since Rockville's foundation, African Americans have figured prominently in the history of this city, the seat of Montgomery County. From the earliest tobacco plantations, farmed by hundreds of African men,

women, and children to today's multicultural suburban families, African American citizens are part of the continuing growth and success of the Rockville community.

The City's Historic District Commission established the tour in 2003 and published a brochure that includes a map and description of each location. The location markers were unveiled in 2009.

For more information about the tour, including a complete list of locations and a map, visit the City's website at www.rockvillemd.gov/historic and select Rockville's History, or pick up a brochure at City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue. ❖

Rockville Recognizes the 2012 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Award Winner

At the 40th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. community celebration in January, **Jessica T. Smith**, a senior at Rockville High School, was awarded the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Award.

The City's Human Rights Commission bestows the award each year to recognize the outstanding efforts of a high school student who has helped advance the goals and dreams of Dr. King, either in an academic setting or in the community.

Smith was selected as the 2012 honoree because she exhibits personal qualities that reflect the teachings of Dr. King and is always looking for ways to unify people.

One of the projects that Smith took leadership in promoting was the "Save Darfur" project where she raised money and public awareness of the genocide in Sudan.

Smith is currently hosting an event at her school that partners with Tom's Shoes to give shoes to less fortunate children and youth around the world. Her involvement with these projects reflects her passion for people of all races.

Eight additional Rockville students were nominated for the award.



Jessica T. Smith received the 2012 MLK Jr. Youth Award.

The nominees were:

- **Michelle Barrett**, senior at Richard Montgomery High School
- **Rahyem Henry**, senior at Richard Montgomery High School
- **Felitsa Katsani**, senior at Rockville High School
- **Chengyu Liu**, junior at Thomas S. Wootton High School
- **Gaelle Njampou**, senior at Rockville High School
- **Andrea Okeke**, senior at Richard Montgomery High School
- **Genesis Porquin**, senior at Richard Montgomery High School
- **Ashley M. Troutman**, junior at Thomas S. Wootton High School ❖

Mayor & Council

City of Rockville Elected Officials (Two-Year Term from November 2011 to November 2013)



Mayor
Phyllis Marcuccio



Councilmember
John F. Hall, Jr.



Councilmember
Tom Moore



Councilmember
Bridget Donnell Newton



Councilmember
Mark Pierzchala

Mayor and Council Build Relationship with MCPS

Montgomery County Public Schools Superintendent Joshua P. Starr, along with Board of Education President Shirley Brandman and member Laura Berthiaume, met with the Mayor and Council last month to build on their working relationship.

"We are building a strong relationship as we support our kids and support our community, and continue to support our world class schools," Starr said in an interview after the meet and greet.

During the Jan. 9 meeting, Starr highlighted for the Mayor and Council MCPS'



MCPS Superintendent Joshua P. Starr, (left), BOE President Shirley Brandman and member Laura Berthiaume met with the Mayor and Council.

commitment to the county's 146,000 students and talked about the ongoing challenge of creating school capacity. The Board of Education approved last fall a \$1.5 billion Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget to

address overcrowding and modernization needs, he said.

That request will go before the Montgomery County Council this year. Among the requests, are several specific to Rockville schools, including an addition at Julius West Middle School that would open in August 2016 and a new elementary school in the Richard Montgomery cluster that would also open in August 2016.

County Executive Isiah Leggett proposed a plan in January that would cut school spending and delay the new elementary school. That plan will still need to go before the County Council.

"We appreciate any support you can provide to help our County Council understand the magnitude of these needs," Starr said. ❖

Board and Commission Vacancies

The City is seeking applicants for:

- Animal Matters Board (1)
- Compensation Commission (3)
- Human Rights Commission (2)
- Landlord Tenant Affairs Commission (1)
- Recreation and Parks Advisory Board (2) (one unexpired youth member term)
- Sign Review Board (1)

According to City policy, members whose terms are ending are invited to reapply for appointment. ❖

Focus on Human Rights Commission

The Human Rights Commission (HRC) is a group of volunteers, appointed by the Mayor and Council, to ensure equal treatment, free from discrimination for people who live, visit, work, or recreate in Rockville.

The HRC is charged with minimizing the effects of conflict and promoting appreciation of diversity within the City through mediation, investigation into complaints of discrimination, the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, the F. Michael Taff and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Awards and the annual student Human Rights Multimedia Contest.

The HRC generally meets the fourth Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. at Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave. ❖

Economic Summit Next Steps Discussed

The Mayor and Council are expected to discuss how the City will move forward following The Rockville Summit: A Roadmap for the Future that took place last fall.

More than 200 members of the business, residential, public and nonprofit communities attended the summit, and succeeded in starting a dialogue among the groups.

Stephen Fuller, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Regional Analysis at George

Mason University and an expert on the metropolitan Washington economy, discussed his report that assesses Rockville's current economic conditions and outlook.

Fuller explained during the summit that Rockville's economy is balanced by a "three-legged stool," that includes residents, business activity and government. Fuller noted that all three sectors rely on health and education,

retail, consumer and hospitality services, and all compete with and rely on the greater county and Washington metropolitan region.

The five themes to emerge from the summit were:

- Job growth and residential workforce,
- Housing,
- Preservation of Rockville's character,
- Education and school capacity, and
- Transportation and traffic. ❖

FY2013 Budget

continued from pg. 1...

cent of the FY12 adopted General Fund budget. FY13 revenue estimates will again be conservative and reflect the current economic conditions.

The General Fund sup-

ports more than 60 percent of the City's total adopted FY12 budget. The known major cost drivers for the General Fund in FY13 include salaries and benefits, debt service and transfers to fund capital projects.

The adopted Fiscal Year 2012 operating bud-

get is \$107.2 million and the Capital Improvements Program budget totals \$72.3 million.

The first budget presentation is available at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget. Visit the website to also learn about the current budget and its process. ❖

Lutheran Home Bonds Approved, Council Looks to Review Policy

The Mayor and Council approved in January issuing economic development revenue bonds for the National Lutheran Home and Village, allowing the nonprofit corporation to move forward with plans to renovate and reconfigure nursing units to offer addi-

tional services. The bond issuance is for \$25 million.

The bond will not cost the City anything and does not carry any risk for the City's finances.

The project is expected to be completed in the fall of 2014. National Lutheran Home is located on Viers Drive.

Following the approval, the Mayor and Council discussed an amendment to the City's Financial Management Policies that would add a section titled Economic Development Revenue Bonds Policies and Criteria. These are the policies and criteria that

the Mayor and Council can utilize as guidance to determine whether a request from a nonprofit for bond financing should be considered.

A public hearing on the policy took place Jan. 23. The public record will be kept open until Monday, Feb. 6, at 5 p.m. ❖

MEETINGS & DROP IN SCHEDULE

All General Sessions, Work Sessions and Public Hearings are televised on Rockville Channel 11, and are available on streaming video at www.rockvillemd.gov. Residents may comment on any subject for up to three minutes during the "Citizens Forum" portion at most meetings. All meetings are at 7 p.m. and are subject to change.

- Feb. 6 (Monday)
- Feb. 13 (Monday)
- Feb. 27 (Monday)

The Mayor and one Councilmember are available to meet with residents for drop-in discussions from 5:30-6:30 p.m. one Monday per month in the Mayor and Council office at City Hall. No appointment is necessary, but a call to the City Clerk's Office is appreciated, call 240-314-8280.

In addition to Mayor Marcuccio, the upcoming councilmember scheduled is: John F. Hall, Jr., Feb. 13.

GET INVOLVED IN ROCKVILLE

Contact the Mayor and Council.

- By email: mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov
- By mail: 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850
- By phone: 240-314-8280

Speak at Citizens Forum.

Held during most Mayor and Council meetings, residents may speak for up to three minutes. Priority is given to speakers who sign up in advance by calling the City Clerk's Office at 240-314-8280 by 4 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

Meet face to face with the Mayor or a councilmember.

Drop-in times are held once a month on Monday evening prior to the Mayor and Council meeting from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Call the City Clerk's Office at 240-314-8280 to sign up.

Testify at a public hearing.

Public hearings are held during regular Mayor and Council meetings and are topic specific. To speak, call the City Clerk's Office at 240-314-8280 by 4 p.m. on the date of the hearing. Individuals are allowed three minutes to speak, and persons representing organizations are allowed five minutes.

Public hearings are advertised through legal notices in local media outlets.

Written testimony can be emailed to city-clerk@rockvillemd.gov or mailed to City Clerk's Office, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

Make a request; report a problem or comment on City services.

Contact the Citizen Service Request Coordinator by email at csr@rockvillemd.gov; by phone at 240-314-8139 or by mail at City Manager's Office, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

Learn about your neighborhood.

Contact the Neighborhood Resources Division at 240-314-8340. Find out which civic association is closest to your home and what is happening in your neighborhood.

Attend public meetings.

Look on the City's website, in Rockville Reports or in the weekly e-newsletter, This Week in Rockville, to find out if public meetings will be held in your area.

Attend Rockville University.

A free, six-week citizen awareness program, Rockville University teaches Rockville residents about the city's history, its government and its neighborhoods. Call the Neighborhood Resources Division at 240-314-8340 for information.

Volunteer for a leadership role.

Apply to be on a City Board or Commission. Learn about vacancies or obtain an application from the City Clerk's Office at cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8280.

Volunteer with the Recreation and Parks Department.

Contact the Recreation and Parks Department at 240-314-8620.

It's Not Too Late for Snow Know When to Shovel

Although Rockville has not experienced a big winter storm yet, it is still possible that snow will accumulate this winter and you'll want to be sure you know and understand Rockville's snow ordinance.

During a snow or ice storm, residents and business owners have the responsibility to clear the snow from sidewalks, steps, driveways and parking spaces, and areas that are for public use. The following outlines the snow policy:

- Snow and ice must be cleared within 24 hours when the accumulation is three inches or below, within 48 hours if accumulation is three to 10 inches and within 72 hours when the accumulation is above 10 inches.
- Rockville residents are required, during a City declared snow emergency, to park and leave their cars on the even-numbered side of the street throughout the snow emergency.
- If residents living next to a fire hydrant are able to do so, they should clear snow from the hydrant when the accumulation is above 10 inches.

For more information about the City's severe weather policies visit the City's website, www.rockvillemd.gov.

Rockville Police Program Helps Victims of Crime

The Victim Advocate works in collaboration with the Rockville City police officers to provide free educational services and referrals to counseling, court accompaniment, financial compensation and crime prevention services.

For more information about the Victim Advocate program visit www.rockvillemd.gov/police and click on Community Programs or contact Diane Charles, victim advocate, at 240-314-8917 or dcharles@rockvillemd.gov.

Pepco Tree Replacement Project to Continue

Pepco has removed 86 trees from a stretch of Wootton Parkway between Falls Road and Fallsmead Way in an effort to reduce future power outages.

Pepco will replace trees within the City's right-of-way on a one-to-one basis, and replace the larger removals on a two-to-one basis if adequate space allows. City and Pepco forestry staffs will meet with interested residents to develop a tree replacement plan.

During most storms, large branches or entire trees along this section of Wootton Parkway fell on the power lines, adjacent bike path or into the road. Replacing the trees will improve electric line reliability and public safety.

This project will save tax payer dollars in the long run because City crews will no longer have to clean up the downed trees and branches in this area during storms, according to City Forester Wayne Noll.

Pepco has also agreed to plant on private property or provide vouchers to residents to purchase trees on their own. Species will be selected that will help replace the lost screening and that are compatible for planting near power lines. The entire project is expected to be completed by early spring, weather permitting.

Learn and Get Fit After School

The City of Rockville provides after school programs at local elementary schools and community centers that will help your child complete their homework and stay physically active.

Programs are offered at Lincoln Park Community Center, Maryvale Elementary School, Meadow Hall Elementary School, Twinbrook Community Recreation Center and Twinbrook Elementary School. Transportation is available between local elementary schools and community centers for program participants.

The program cost varies by location and the hours of operation. Financial aid is available.

For more information visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/afterschool.

News You Can Use

Getting a Jump on Spring Cleaning? Rockville Can Help

Rockville provides six special collections per household each calendar year. Special collections are for large items that do not fit into carts, such as couches or desks.

Special collections are also for large metal items such as refrigerators or grills that can be recycled. Call 240-314-8568 weekdays, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., to schedule an appointment. Place items at the curb by 6 a.m., in an unobstructed area on the scheduled date. Special collections should be less than 500 pounds.

Large bulk refuse items should be cut into sections

no longer than eight feet.

Examples of bulk refuse items the City will collect include:

- Fencing and landscape ties
- Furniture and toys (non-plastic)
- Pianos
- Rugs and carpets

Examples of large metal items the City will collect include:

- Air conditioners, water heaters
- Lawnmowers
- Propane tanks
- Outdoor furniture and grills
- Sheds
- Swing sets

The City cannot pick up



items such as cinder blocks, oil or mulch. For a more comprehensive list of what the City will collect and what items are not accepted, go to www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse.

For questions or comments about issues associated with Recycling and Refuse Collection, call 240-314-8568. ❖

Know Your Rights and Responsibilities before Beginning Yard Work

Front Yard Paving Guidelines and Right-of-Way Regulations Affect Homeowners

Residents considering expanding a driveway, planting landscaping along the curb, or otherwise making changes to a front yard or property within the right-of-way should check City guidelines and regulations before beginning a project.

Front Yard

A permit is not generally required for driveway or walkway expansions, but the City has regulations governing the amount of front yard area that can be covered by "impervious surface" material. Impervious surface is any material that prevents, or severely restricts, water from absorbing into the soil. Impervious surfaces include driveways, sidewalks, open porches and compacted gravel areas.

The allowed amount of impervious surface area is expressed as a percentage of the total front yard area. The percentages allowed are based on the zoning district of the property and range from 10 to 45 percent. Corner lots are restricted to five to 22 percent.

It is recommended that you check with the City prior to starting any work to ensure that what you are doing is consistent with regulations.

For more information visit www.rockvillemd.gov/government/cpds and click on Front Yard Work FAQ. The public information counters at City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, are open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. for Inspection Services and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for Planning and Zoning. The department may also be contacted at 240-314-8200 or cpds@rockvillemd.gov.

As specified in the City Code, a permit is generally required for paving, planting or landscaping, construction, excavation or other work within the City-owned right-of-way.

Right-of-Way

The City requires permits in order to coordinate the installation and maintenance of utilities in the right-of-way such as Pepco, Washington Gas, and Verizon, and to maintain roads, sidewalks, sewer and water mains, and other infrastructure.

Residents interested in adding landscaping in the right-of-way are especially cautioned to check with the City before beginning, as plants can create problems over time.

For more information visit www.rockvillemd.gov/permits or contact at 240-314-8500 or permits@rockvillemd.gov. ❖

**Online Feature/
Característica en línea:
Atención a las regulaciones
del derecho de vía y los
patios delanteros.**

Upper Watts Branch Watershed Restoration Project Continues

A project to restore the stream channel in Upper Watts Branch Park Forest Preserve is moving forward. The design process will start, and staff and residents will participate in a field walk to observe erosion.

The field walk, which will take place Feb. 4, is an opportunity for neighbors and the Upper Watts Branch Task Force to observe various elements in the park, including the trees, stream and any erosion associated with it, and other environmental elements. City staff will point out the issues that are of concern. Following the walk, a meeting, Environmental Restoration 101, will be held in March to discuss how to fix the erosion and any impacts on the park.

The purpose of the Upper Watts Branch Park Forest Preserve Environment Restoration Project is to enhance the Watts Branch Watershed – a 22-square-mile tributary to the Potomac River – through stream restoration, stormwater management, wetland enhancement, reforestation and protection of adjacent utilities.

Watts Branch, of which approximately 6.5 miles is located within the City of Rockville, is experiencing increased erosion, which is degrading the water quality of the stream and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. This erosion undermines trees

along stream banks and causes them to fall. Stream erosion is a main contributor to poor water quality because excessive sediment and nutrients enter the water. This project will slow the stream erosion and improve the health of Watts Branch.

The project will take place within the Upper Watts Branch Park Forest Preserve Park and on City-owned parcels bounded between Gude Drive, Aster Boulevard, Nelson Street and Princeton Place. This park is one of many forest preserves throughout the city.

The goals of the stream restoration project are to:

- Minimize/control channel erosion (i.e., channel enlargement and down cutting)
- Reduce pollutants from the eroding stream banks
- Enhance stream and forest habitats
- Protect existing utilities in and near streams from erosion damage
- Protect existing forest areas
- Protect and enhance existing wetlands
- Protect and maintain existing trail systems
- Control invasive vegetation and establish native plants
- Reforestation to meet forestry requirements and establish additional buffer

For more information on the project and next steps, go to www.rockvillemd.gov/residents/public-works/wattsbranch.html. ❖

In The Community

Deadline Nearing for Spring Sports

Rockville offers spring sports leagues for youth and adults. Registration is open now.

Rockville offers youth sports programs for T-Ball, Baseball: Co-Rec Coach Pitch, Girls Softball, Track and Field and Middle School Basketball. You can register through Rockville's online recreation registration system, Rock Enroll, at www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation and click on Rock Enroll. If you need assistance with pin numbers call 240-314-8620.

Registrations are also accepted at most Rockville



facilities.

Rockville also offers adult sports leagues. So now is your chance to grab some friends, form a team and sign up to participate in Men's Softball

or Basketball, or Co-Ed Softball.

To learn more about the leagues, programs or coaching, call 240-314-8620 or email sports@rockvillemd.gov. ❖

Community Supports Rockville Neighbors in Need

Thanks to the generous volunteer efforts and donations of more than 300 individuals and businesses, \$27,000 was raised to help over 1,000 residents during the 2011 holiday season.

For more than 40 years the Rockville Holiday Drive, which is operated through the City's Community Services Division, has been helping families in need, thanks to the generosity of the Rockville community.

At Thanksgiving, the contributions and hard work of 120 volunteers enabled the City to distribute Thanksgiving food baskets to 566 Rockville households and treat 96 Rockville seniors to a Thanksgiving dinner.

In addition to individual volunteers, nonprofit organizations and businesses served as partners for the distribution of Thanksgiving baskets. They are Cas & Associates, Inc., St. Mary's Catholic Church, Montrose Baptist Church and Rockville Church of Christ.

During the holiday season, six Rockville schools conducted major food and toy drives. Those schools are Robert Frost Middle School, Christ Episcopal School, Maryvale Elementary School, Richard Montgomery High School, St. Mary's School and the Franklin Schools. Robert Frost Middle School held its annual Turkey Trot and donated the proceeds, which totaled \$920.

As a result of so many generous donations, 284 teens received a \$15 gift card to a local retailer and 188 seniors and households without children received a gift card to a local grocery store during the December holidays. In addition to cash and gift card donations, 955 children received toys in December from the City's Toy Shop.

The Family Sponsorship Program, also operated through the Rockville Community Services Division, matched 53 Rockville families with sponsors who provided food and gifts tailored to each family's specific needs.

The Rockville Community Services Division is located in Rockville Town Center at 30 Courthouse Square, Suite 100. The hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. ❖

IN AND AROUND ROCKVILLE

Green Thumbs will want to Grab Their Summer Plots Now

The winter doldrums have long set in by now and the longing for sultry summer days is festering. Spring and summer are not far off, and the sign-ups for garden plots open Feb. 6 for residents and March 15 for nonresidents.

Rockville operates the garden plot program at Woottons Mill Park, which is located on Hurley Avenue. The



program runs from April 1 through Nov. 15. There are 178 plots available, including one raised plot that is handicap accessible.

This program offers approximately a 20-foot by 25-foot plot of land and access to water. Everything else that goes into making a bountiful garden is up to you. Renters must provide their own hose, gardening tools, plants, fertilizers, fencing and other gardening equipment, as well as maintenance of weeds in the plot area.

Rates for 2012 are \$52 per plot for city residents and \$77 per plot for anyone who does not live within the corporate city limits.

Your Opinion Counts: Make Rockville More Livable

Short Survey Deadline Approaches

Rockville asked residents and businesses last month to share their views on how the city can be greener, healthier and more livable. The survey is just one way to contribute to Rockville sustainable future.

The deadline is Feb. 10, so don't miss your chance to help Rockville in its efforts with the Sustainable Maryland Certified Program, a new initiative the Mayor and Council signed on to with support from the Environment Commission.

The survey is anonymous and will take about 10 minutes to complete. You can find the survey and learn more about the program at www.rockvillemd.gov/sustainability.

The Sustainable Maryland Certified Program is a new initiative of the University of Maryland and the Maryland Municipal League (MML). The program is structured to build on the sustainability efforts Rockville has already achieved such as Tree City USA designations, community gardens, farmers markets, Let's Move programs, the Green Power Community Challenge and partnerships with the Rockville Chamber of Commerce.

Rockville Seeks Military Personnel for Ceremonies, Speaking

The City of Rockville is seeking military personnel to speak and perform ceremonial duties at annual events like Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

City of Rockville and Montgomery County residents, who have formerly or who currently serve in the United States military are eligible. In order to be considered, the speaker must be comfortable speaking in public and will have to prepare a five- to seven-minute speech about their experience in the armed forces and what it meant to them, and honor those who have also served in the armed forces. Assistance with the speech is available if necessary.

Each year, the City hosts a variety of community events that feature military personnel.

Anyone interested in learning more should contact Caitlin Conville at cconville@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8604.

Take a Photo to Celebrate Earth Day

To celebrate Earth Day, Rockville will host its fourth annual environmental photo contest. Winners in three categories will be announced on Earth Day, and winning photos will be displayed at VisArts in Rockville Town Square.

Photographers of all ages are invited to submit photos that highlight the beauty and importance of nature in Rockville. Submit your photos, taken in the city limits of Rockville, which capture what it is you value about Rockville's environment.

Up to three photos may be emailed to Heather Gewandter at hgewardter@rockvillemd.gov or saved to a CD and mailed or dropped off to Environmental Management Division, 30 Courthouse Square, Suite 100, Rockville, MD 20850, Attn. Photo Contest.

The deadline for submissions is March 26.

Include with your photos, your name, age, location where the photo was taken and a short description to accompany and explain the photo.

For guidelines and official rules, go to www.rockvillemd.gov/environment.

The Rockville Environment Commission is accepting nominations for Environmental Excellence Awards in four categories:

- **Carl Henn Outstanding Individual Environmental Achievement Award:** Recognizes the achievements of an individual who undertakes a project or an ongoing effort to improve the environment, address a specific environmental problem or increase public understanding of or participation in environmental issues.
- **Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Practices Award:** Recognizes

businesses, groups or organizations that successfully undertake a project or other initiative to produce significant, measurable environmental benefits in Rockville.

- **Outstanding Achievement in Green Building Technology/Design Award:** Recognizes the design, construction or substantial renovation of a building in Rockville that provides significant environmental benefits.
- **Outstanding Environmental Education and Academic Achievement Award:** Recognizes outstanding efforts by a student or teacher, either residing in Rockville or attending a Rockville school. Guidelines and nomination forms are available at www.rockvillemd.gov/government/commissions/ec. Nomination forms are due March 2. ❖

Rockville Park Neighborhood Recognized Historic National Park Service Named Subdivision to National Register

The Rockville Park subdivision was named to a coveted place on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service Dec. 31, 2011.

The City's Historic District Commission on Feb. 17, recommended a National Register listing based on Rockville Park's significance as a late-19th century suburban development close to public transit that showcases architectural

styles from Victorian to mid-20 century.

"The neighborhood is a wonderful example of how Rockville and other suburban Washington, DC communities grew in the late 1800s," said Robin Ziek, historic preservation planner. "The different architectural styles, proximity to the railroad, open landscape, and grid of streets and alleys are typical of early middle class suburbs."

The Mayor and

Council, the State Historic Preservation Office and the U.S. National Park Service all considered and endorsed the Historic District Commission's recommendation.

Residential properties in Rockville Park may be eligible for a state tax credit of 20 percent for property maintenance.

For more information contact Robin Ziek at rziek@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8236. ❖

Students Invited to Showcase Artwork

Students who like to draw, paint, sculpt or create other visual arts can showcase their talents during the annual Rockville Student Art Show.

Submissions will be accepted 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26, at the Art Gallery at Glenview Mansion in Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive. The art show will take place Monday, March 4, through Tuesday, March 27.

Students in kindergarten through 12th grade who live in the City of Rockville or attend school in the City are invited to participate.

Two entry forms and one piece of artwork in any media are required, and should be submitted to the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive. Entry forms are available online at www.rockvillemd.gov/arts and will be available at the art gallery during the scheduled drop off time.



All artwork must be mounted or framed and include a secure wire or string on the back to hang. Three-dimensional artwork must be free standing and of appropriate construction for safe public display.

Judges will give ribbon awards to the best submissions in grades four through 12. All participants will receive a certificate.

For more information about how to register for this unique opportunity or to obtain an entry form, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/arts or call Julie Farrell, arts programs specialist, at 240-314-8682.



Rockville Regional Youth Orchestra to Hold Auditions

Talented youth in grades 4 through 9 are invited to audition for the spring season of the Rockville Regional Youth Orchestra (RRYO).

Auditions will be held Tuesday, Feb. 7, at the Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive. Individual audition times can be arranged by emailing Julie Farrell, arts program specialist, at jfarrell@rockvillemd.gov.

RRYO offers a unique opportunity for music students to have fun, while furthering their musical abilities in a beginning level youth orchestra program under the direction of Bryan Seith.

The orchestra is comprised of violins, violas, cellos, string basses, flutes, clarinets, oboe, bassoons, trumpets, trombones, french horns, low brass and percussion. Students should be able to play musical scales, play a solo selection (student choice) and sight read. An audition fee of \$15 is due at the time of the audition.

If accepted into RRYO, members are required to attend weekly rehearsals, Tuesdays, 5:30-6:45 p.m. at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre; pay tuition of \$140 per semester for Rockville residents or \$175 per semester for nonresidents; and participate in a concert performance during May 2012.

For information visit www.rockvillemd.gov/arts or contact Julie Farrell at jfarrell@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8682.

Arts & Entertainment

Celebrate Valentine's Day in Rockville

Whether you want to recognize Valentine's Day with that one special someone or with your family, you don't have to leave the city to celebrate. Attend a family dance, drop your teens off for a night of activity or bring your toddler to a special playtime.

Join us for the **Annual Heart to Heart Family Valentines Dance**, Friday, Feb. 10, 7-9 p.m., at Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway. Wear red and enjoy a DJ and dancing. Refreshments will be sold by the Twinbrook Elementary School PTA. Admission is \$3 per person; pre-registration is not required. See www.rockvillemd.gov/twinbrook for more information.

Drop your teen for a fun night at the **Late Night Teen Valentine's Party**, Saturday,



Feb. 11, 7-10:30 p.m., at Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Road. Teens in grades 6-9 have the community center all to themselves to celebrate

Valentine's Day with friends. Admission is \$5 per person; no pre-registration required. See www.rockvillemd.gov/thomasfarm for more information.

Also at Thomas Farm Community Center, the **Tiny Tots Valentine's Celebration** will entertain your toddler Tuesday, Feb. 14, 10 a.m.-noon. Dress in your cutest red to play, make crafts and sample light refreshments. Admission for ages five and younger is \$2 per child; a current membership or day pass is required for each adult.

The **XOXO Afterschool Valentine's Day Dance** will get your family bouncing to the latest tunes Tuesday, Feb. 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Avenue. Dress in red and celebrate with a DJ, your friends and family. Refreshments will be sold. Admission is \$3 per person; pre-registration is not required. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/lpcc for more information. ❖



Dance, Swing and Sing at the Theatre in February

Tickets on Sale Now

Bring your family and friends to the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre at the Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive to enjoy a show this month.

The highly anticipated **Duquesne University Tamburitzans** will return to the theatre Saturday, Feb. 11, at 7 p.m. The always-popular troupe will bring its unique Eastern European dance, live music and authentic costumes to a show everyone in the family will enjoy. Tickets cost between \$28 and \$36.

The **Rockville Concert Band** will perform a free concert featuring swing music Sunday, Feb. 12, at 3 p.m. Tickets are not required, but a suggested \$5 donation is

appreciated. The band is composed of volunteer performers and is a community institution that has been entertaining the community since 1957.

At the end of the month, the Victorian Lyric Opera Company performs the light-hearted and comic "**Die Fledermaus**." Shows are scheduled for Fridays and Saturdays, Feb. 24 and 25, and March 2 and 3, at 8 p.m. and Sundays, Feb. 26 and March 4, at 2 p.m.

Tickets are available through the theatre box office at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre or by phone 240-314-8690 between 2 and 7 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. ❖

Get Ready for the Upcoming Triathlon Season

Sign up for Dash and Splash

Whether you are an experienced triathlete or new to the sport, the Dash and Splash at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will help you get in the race.

The indoor race and swim will be held Saturday, Feb. 25, and Sunday, Feb. 26.

DON'T MISS DASH AND SPLASH
WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 25, 8:30-11:30 a.m.
 Sunday, Feb. 26, 7:30 a.m.-noon
WHERE: Rockville Swim and Fitness Center
COST: \$20 and \$15

Participants may be grouped by age; 15-24 years, 25-34 years, 35-44 years, 45-54 years, 55-64 years and 65 years and older.

Pre-registration is required at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center front desk or online through

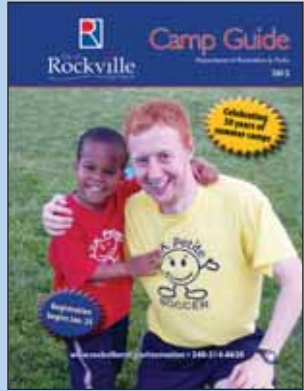
the City's Rock Enroll system at www.rockvillemd.gov. Registration costs \$20 per person; \$15 for seniors 65 and older.

For more information about the race, including course numbers for specific wave start times, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swim center or contact Debbie Bouwkamp at dbouwkamp@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8756. ❖



FACILITIES ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

- Glenview Mansion Art Gallery** **GM**, Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive
- F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre** **FSF**, Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive
- Croydon Creek Nature Center** **CC**, Rockville Civic Center Park, 852 Avery Road. Register online at www.rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8770.
- Rockville Senior Center** **SR**, 1150 Carnation Drive. Call 240-314-8800.
- Rockville City Hall** **CH**, 111 Maryland Ave. Call 240-314-5000.



Rockville's summer camps are now open for registration. Find something that interests your child at www.rockvillemd.gov and click on recreation registration in the right side rail.

For the most up-to-date event listings visit www.rockvillemd.gov or sign up for the E-Letter: Just click on "subscribe to news" on the left side of the home page, enter your name and email, and choose City Events.

February

- 3-Mar.23 Senior Sit 'n Fit** This exercise program on Fridays, 9-9:50 a.m. is designed for you to stay in shape while remaining seated. Classes held at Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Avenue. Register for course #37876. \$45 MEM/RES/\$55 NR
- 4 Scout Badge Day-Webelos Naturalist Badge** Naturalists can help you complete all necessary requirements to achieve this badge. All materials are provided, however badges are not supplied. Programs take place 10 a.m.-noon or 2-4 p.m. rain or shine. Contact Melinda Norton at 240-314-8771 to register. \$14 RES/ \$16 NR **CC**
- 5-28 Glenview Mansion Art Gallery Exhibit** Featuring the work of local artists, this show should not be missed. Take part in an opening reception, Sunday, Feb. 5, 1:30-3:30 p.m. For gallery hours visit www.rockvillemd.gov/arts FREE **GM**
- 6 Peeking at the Presidents - Calvin Coolidge** While vacationing in Vermont he was notified he had become President of the United States. Learn how this quiet man presided over the "Roaring 20's, between 10:15-11:15 a.m. Register for

February Calendar

RES = Residents • NR = Non Residents • MEM = Member • NM = Non Member

course #37166. \$4 MEM/\$6 RES/\$8 NR **SR**

7,9,14,16,21,23, 28

Tiny Tots Drop in at Thomas Farm Community Center Join us for playtime in the gym each Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon. A center membership or day pass required. See www.rockvillemd.gov/thomasfarm for more details.

7 Archeology Sites Join Don Housley of the Montgomery County Historical Society Speakers Bureau 10:30 a.m.-noon for a presentation on prehistoric and historical archaeological sites and the techniques used by county archaeologists to unearth the past. Register for course #37128. \$3 MEM/\$4 RES/\$5 NR **SR**

7 Rockville Regional Youth Orchestra Auditions Student musicians in grades 4-9 can gain valuable experience playing nicely with others! Call or email Julie to schedule an audition between 5:30 and 8 p.m. 240-314-8682 or jfarrell@rockvillemd.gov **FSF**

8 Potato Bag Learn to make a potato bag and cook a baked potato in five minutes or less in the microwave, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Bring your sewing machine and a pair of scissors. A machine may be rented day of class for \$10; material fee of \$9 is payable at class. Register for course #37175. \$12 MEM/\$15 RES/\$20 NR **SR**

9 Nature Tots - Winter Birds Spend time with your child discovering the wonders of nature. A naturalist will help you explore a new nature topic through nature play, crafts, stories and hikes, 10-11:30 a.m. Space is limited; register in advance. Ages 2-5; cost \$6 RES/ \$7 NR. **CC**

9 Rosalie of Riversdale Celebrating the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 and the Star Spangled Banner, award winning actress Mary Ann Jung will portray Rosalie Calvert of Maryland, 1-2:30 p.m.. Light refreshments will be served. Co-sponsored with Kindley Assisted Living of Asbury Village. Register for course #37124. \$4 MEM/\$5 RES/\$6 NR **SR**

9 Facebook - Intermediate If you already have a Facebook account and want to learn how to enhance your page, add or delete friends, or just be more comfortable using the site, join this class for personalized instruction, 1-3 p.m. Register for course #37483. \$7 MEM/\$9 RES/\$13 NR **SR**

10 Hooray for Homeschoolers! All About Owls Can owls turn their heads all the way around? Come find out this and much more about owls, dissect an owl pellet and get up close and personal with our screech owl, Wink, 1-2:30 p.m. \$6 RES/ \$8 NR **CC**

10 Annual Heart to Heart Family Valentine's Dance Wear red and join us for a DJ and dancing at Twinbrook Commu-

nity Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway, 7-9 p.m. Refreshments will be sold by the Twinbrook Elementary PTA. \$3 per person at the door.

11 Fingerprint Valentine Cards Learn how to make art with your fingerprints and put this skill to use making some Valentine cards for the people you love, 10-11 a.m. Each participant will take home three Valentines. An adult must accompany children younger than 8. \$5 RES/ \$7 NR **CC**

11 Late Night Teen Valentine's Party Teens in grades 6-9 have the community center all to themselves to celebrate Valentine's Day with friends, 7-10:30 p.m., at Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls-grove Drive. \$5 per person; no pre-registration required.

11 Duquesne University Tamburitzans return, with great live Eastern European music, dance and authentic costumes. Always a great show; get your tickets early at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre. Tickets: \$28-\$36 **FSF**

12 Rockville Swing presented by the Rockville Concert Band at 3 p.m. Tickets are not required; \$5 suggested donation. **FSF**

14 Nature Café February is the month when many owls find their mates. Enjoy a cup of coffee while you discover more fascinating bird stories, 10-11 a.m. \$3 RES/\$5 NR **CC**

14 XOXO Afterschool Valentine's Day Dance Dress in red and celebrate Valentine's Day with your friends and family, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Avenue. A DJ will spin the latest tunes. Refreshments will be sold. Cost: \$3 per person, no pre-registration required.

15 Softball Pizza Party How can you be a part of the Rockville Senior Softball Team in 2012? All former members and anyone interested in playing softball next season should attend the pizza party, 12:30-2 p.m. Register for course #37433. **SR** FREE

15 Probate Process and Estate Laws Joseph Griffin, Register of Wills for Montgomery County, will review from 1 to 3 p.m the probate process and the various services provided by the register of wills. Informative material relating to trusts will be presented. Register for course #37851. **SR** FREE

15 Transitions - College Fairs Unsure which school you want to attend when you graduate high school or transfer from a community college? Take a trip to some college fairs this winter and speak to representatives and counselors in-person to have your questions answered. Additional college fair trips are planned for the spring. Departs from Julius West Middle School at 4:30 p.m. Registration required for course #3800; FREE.

16 Young In Heart Senior Club Meeting in the Carnation Room at 11 a.m. **SR**

17,18 'A Change Gon' Come' The Finest! Performance Troupe presents its annual Black Heritage Production. See page 2 for details. **FSF**

17-19 Computer Basics This class offers a hands-on introduction for beginning computer users, 10-11:30 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday. Prerequisite: Use of Keyboard and Mouse. Register for course #37459. \$5 MEM/\$7 RES/\$10 NR **SR**

18 Great Backyard Bird Count Participate in this annual event and help the Cornell Lab of Ornithology with their ongoing bird research. You will learn common backyard birds and how to identify them and then go on a hike to practice your skills, 9-10:30 a.m. We will count the birds that we see and submit our results. Be part of this important wildlife census. \$2 RES/\$3 NR **CC**

20 Presidents Day Rockville City Hall will be closed. Other facilities may operate on a limited schedule. See page 1 for more details.

20 Snow Boarding/Skiing Another day off of school? Why not come and have some fun skiing or snowboarding at Ski Liberty 8 a.m.-4 p.m.? Detailed information will be mailed to you upon registration. Pick-up and drop-off from Julius West Middle School. See www.rockvillemd.gov/teens for details.

21 Wildlife Habitat Become a part of the effort to have the National Wildlife Federation certify Rockville as a Community Wildlife Habitat, 1-2:30 p.m. Learn how to provide food, water, cover and places to raise young, as well as how to use sustainable gardening practices. Register for course #37791. FREE MEM/RES/\$4 NR **SR**

22-Mar.28 Strong Kids Put the game controller down, tie up your sneakers and get moving. Have fun with friends and get in shape. This class will help increase strength, self-esteem and coordination each Wednesday, 6:30-7:15 p.m., at Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Avenue. Register for course #37877; cost \$35 RES/45 NR.

22 Go Green Lecture - Spring Gardening Advice Join Brett McNish, Horticulturalist for the Smithsonian Gardens, as he offers a variety of spring garden advice from proper pruning techniques to bed preparation, 7-8 p.m. FREE **CC**

23 Nature Tots - Nature Detectives Spend time with your child discovering the wonders of nature. A naturalist will help you explore a new nature topic through nature play, crafts, stories and hikes, 10-11:30 a.m. Space is limited; register in advance. \$6 RES/ \$7 NR **CC**

23 Spinal Stenosis: Finding Relief Spinal stenosis is a debilitating condition that involves the narrowing of the spinal canal. Dr. A. Jay Khanna, spine surgeon and associate professor of orthopedic surgery and biomedical engineering with Johns Hopkins Medicine, will discuss innovative treatments that can help patients restore mobility and improve quality of health, 1-2 p.m. Register for course #37765. **SR** FREE

24,25,26, Mar. 2,3,4 Johann Strauss' Die Fledermaus will be presented by the Victorian Lyric Opera Company Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays, at 2 p.m. Everything old is new again with love affairs, betrayal, deception and a battle of the sexes, all conjured with contagious laughter, flowing champagne and a classic score. See www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre for tickets and information. Tickets: \$16-\$20 **FSF**

25 Eastern Shore Winter Birding Spend the day, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., exploring the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge on this winter birding adventure. Blackwater is the home to wintering bald eagles, peregrine falcons and a host of other birds and animals. Bring a bag lunch, camera and binoculars. Trip departs from Rockville City Hall. Register for course #37922. \$30 RES/\$35 NR

25 Saturday Story & Craft Stop by the Nature Center on Saturday morning for story-time and a craft. A naturalist will read a story and then lead a craft based on the theme of the story, 10-11 a.m. All children must be accompanied by an adult. \$3 RES/ \$5 NR **CC**

25,26 Dash and Splash Get ready for your first or next triathlon with this event at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center. See page 6 for details.

26 Annual Student Art Show Delivery Students in grades K-12 who live or attend school in Rockville are invited to submit one 2-D or 3-D piece of artwork, 1:30-3:30 p.m. See page 6 for details. FREE **GM**

27 Barry Gordy and the Motown Sound Learn how Gordy built an independent label and assembled a staff of songwriters, producers and musicians who lit up the charts, 10:15-11:15 a.m. Register for course #37164. \$4 MEM/\$6 RES/\$9 NR **SR**

28 Meet the Author Steve Piacente, 10-11 a.m. His novel, "Bella," set in Washington, D.C., tells the story of a striking widow intent on proving the military lied about her husband's death as she lures a Washington journalist into the investigation. Books will be available for sale and signing after presentation. Register for course #37763. FREE MEM, RES/\$4 NR **SR**

28 Computer Basics II This class, 10 a.m.-noon, will teach you about control panel components, monitor settings, shortcuts and more. Customize your desk-

top and your start menu. Create a variety of different shortcuts and move to different locations in your computer. Learn about safe mode and creating wallpaper. Register for course #37463. \$7 MEM/\$9 RES/\$13 NR **SR**

28 Mental Wellness Learn ways to achieve and maintain a healthy state of mind including stress reduction techniques and self-appreciation, 1-2:30 p.m. Counselor Barbara Wilson will discuss factors that can make a difference in your mental wellness. Register for course #37790. FREE MEM/RES/\$4 NR **SR**

Mar.2 Snow Tubing Party - Half Day Feel the breeze through your hair as you swoosh down the slopes on a big inflatable rubber tube. We're heading to Ski Liberty for this MCPS early release day, 1-6:30 p.m. Detailed information to be mailed upon registration. Pick-up and drop-off from Julius West and Wood Middle Schools. See www.rockvillemd.gov/teens for details.

Mar.2 Family Bingo Night Have fun with your friends and family and win prizes at Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway, 7-9 p.m. \$3 per person at the door.

Mar.4 Student Art Show Opening Reception Come see your art in a beautiful, historic setting, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Artwork from students in grades 4-12 will be judged and ribbons will be awarded. FREE **GM**

Boards and Commissions Meetings are held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., unless otherwise noted.

8,22 Planning Commission 7 p.m. Meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month.

8 Cultural Arts Commission 7 p.m. Meets the second Wednesday of the month.

8 Sister City Corporation 7:30 p.m. Meets the second Wednesday of the month.

14 Environment Commission 7:30 p.m. Meets the second Tuesday of the month.

15 Rockville Housing Enterprises 6:30 p.m., 621-A Southlawn Lane. Meets the third Wednesday of the month.

16 Senior Citizens Commission 1 p.m., Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. Meets the third Thursday of the month.

16 Historic District Commission 7:30 p.m. Meets the third Thursday of the month.

21 Rockville Seniors, Inc. 1 p.m., Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. Meets the third Tuesday of the month.

22 Human Rights Commission 7 p.m. Meets the fourth Wednesday of the month.

28 Traffic and Transportation Commission 7 p.m. Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month.

FOR MOST UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTING VISIT WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV

Plan Your Next Party at the Rockville Climbing Gym

Birthday parties, scout and youth groups, and work teams will have fun, develop camaraderie and build teamwork when rock climbing at the indoor City of Rockville Climbing Gym, 860 Avery Road.

Two standard party packages are available and gym staff are happy to create a custom package to meet your needs.

- **Regular Party Package**- minimum of eight participants with a maximum of 15. Price includes a two-hour reservation, basic instruction, climbing, and all equipment needed to climb. Cost: \$150 for eight participants for City residents; \$200 for eight participants for non-residents; \$20 for each additional participant.
- **Non-Profit Party Package**- minimum of eight participants with a maximum of 15. Price includes a two-hour reservation, basic instruction, climbing, and all equipment needed to climb. Cost: \$125 for eight participants for nonprofits located in the City of Rockville; \$175 for eight participants for nonprofits outside of the city limits; \$15 for each additional participant.

For additional information visit www.rockville.md.gov/climbinggym or contact 240-314-8625 or climbing@rockvillemd.gov.

Read Rockville Reports Online Newsletter Available in 10 Languages

Published ten times a year, Rockville Reports, the City's newsletter for residents, is an important source of information about news, upcoming events and public meetings happening in the community.

The newsletter is also published on the City's website, www.rockvillemd.gov/rockvillereports, and is available in 10 languages through a Google Translate tool on each web page.

To receive an electronic, emailed version of the newsletter, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/contacts/listservs.html, enter your email address and click Rockville Reports. Residents who sign up to receive the electronic version will continue to receive a print version via mail. The electronic version will arrive via email a few days earlier than the print version.

For more information contact the public information office at pio@rockvillemd.gov.

Take a Daytrip and Explore Maryland this Winter

The City of Rockville's trips for adults can help you try something new and meet people with similar interests in February and March.

The following trips are now open for registration.

- **Eastern Shore Winter Birding**- Spend Saturday, Feb. 25, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., exploring the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge on this winter birding adventure. Blackwater is the home to wintering bald eagles, peregrine falcons and a host of other birds and animals. Bring a bag lunch, camera and binoculars. Register for course #37922.
- **Brewery Tours**- If you enjoy fine craft beer, come along as we tour a few of the Mid-Atlantic's most interesting breweries, Saturday, March 10, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. We'll go to Delaware and tour the small microbrewery, "16-Mile Brewery," and then head over to "Dog Fish Head." You'll be ready for your first homebrew batch when this trip is over. Register for course #37920.
- **Hike Maryland Heights**- Like history? Like hiking? Then join us Saturday, March 24, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. for 6.5 miles of meandering trails around historic Civil War forts and artillery batteries over-looking Harpers Ferry. With a hidden waterfall, this is a scenic circuit trail but the first two miles are steep uphill. Register for course #37923.

The cost of each trip is \$30 for City of Rockville residents and \$35 for nonresidents. The trips depart from and return to Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue. To register, visit www.rockvillemd.gov and click on Recreation Registration.

Neighborhood Notes

Taff Awardee Recognized for Improving the Lives of People with Disabilities

At the 40th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Fulfilling the Dream community celebration in January, the Honorable **Steven Van Grack** was honored with the F. Michael Taff Award.

In honor of the late F. Michael Taff, former chair of the Rockville Human Rights Commission and a dedicated human rights activist, this award recognizes the exemplary efforts of individuals or groups in Rockville who act to reduce the barriers that restrain the full participation of those with disabilities.

Van Grack was recognized for providing services for those whose rights have been ignored or unrecognized. He is directly responsible for opening up new opportunities for a number of MCPS student athletes with learning disabilities.

Van Grack was also instrumental in changing advertising employment opportunities for people with mental impairments, and in 2005, building sidewalks in a neighborhood where a blind woman was forced to walk her children to school in the streets.

As former Mayor of the City of Rockville, Mr. Van



The Honorable Steven Van Grack was awarded the 2012 F. Michael Taff Award by Mayor Phyllis Marcuccio.

Grack had the opportunity to appoint F. Michael Taff as Chair of the Human Rights Commission and supported his efforts to create sensitivity and awareness training.

Two other individuals were nominated for the award. The nominees were:

- **Sharon E. Friedman, LCSW-C:** Friedman addresses our community's needs through her work at the Rockville-based

Montgomery County Mental Health Association (MHA).

- **Marian Vessels:** For the past 15 years Marian Vessels has been continuously assisting the City of Rockville through her events and training sessions.

For additional information about the 2012 award and the Dr. King celebration, visit www.rockvillemd.gov. ❖



Make a Difference: Attend a Mayor and Council Meeting

- Monday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 27, 7 p.m.

Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue

Residents may comment on any subject for up to three minutes during the "Citizens Forum" portion at most meetings.

Speak directly to the Mayor and Councilmember John F. Hall, Jr., Monday, Feb. 13, 5:30-6:30 p.m. No appointment is necessary, but a call to the City Clerk's Office is appreciated, call 240-314-8280.

All General Sessions, Work Sessions and Public Hearings are televised on Rockville Channel 11, and are available on streaming video at www.rockville.md.gov.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to visit the City of Rockville's website. If you don't already have a QR code reader on your phone, there are plenty of free apps you can download. When you have an app installed, point your phone's camera at the code and the website will appear in your phone's web browser.



SKATE INTO FUN THIS MONTH...

The ice skating rink in Rockville Town Square has proven popular with residents and visitors alike.

The largest outdoor ice skating rink between Baltimore and Washington, D.C., and the largest in Montgomery County, the ice rink is open daily.

To learn more watch a short Channel 11 video about the rink at www.youtube.com/cityofrockville or visit www.rockvilletownsquare.com



ROCKVILLE TOWN CENTER TOUR GIVES STUDENTS A LESSON IN URBAN PLANNING... More than 100 kindergartners from Beall Elementary School toured Town Center in January. City planner David Levy (left) explained how the buildings and open space work together to create a neighborhood.



Get Into It

Mayor

PHYLLIS MARCUCCIO

Councilmembers

JOHN F. HALL, JR.

TOM MOORE

BRIDGET DONNELL NEWTON

MARK PIERZCHALA

Acting City Manager:

Jennifer Kimball

Communication Manager:

Marylou Berg

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Leon Porter, Lori Russler, Nancy

Zombolas

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