

ROCKVILLE REPORTS

JUNE 2007

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A monthly newsletter for the citizens of the City of Rockville

Hometown Holidays Celebrating with the Entire Family

Grab your friends and neighbors, comfortable shoes and join more than 40,000 residents and visitors for Hometown Holidays, Rockville's annual Memorial Day weekend celebration. There is something for everyone and events are free; with the exception of children's rides.

The nationally known band Augustana will perform Saturday night. The main stage, adjacent to East Montgomery Avenue, also will showcase the Grammy Award-winning KC and the Sunshine Band on Sunday night. The

crowd should definitely expect to "shake, shake, shake."

Rockville Town Center will play host to various other events throughout the weekend. Six stages will feature a wide variety of music from funk to jazz to Latin to pop.

Food lovers will have plenty to whet their appetites. The Taste of Rockville is the perfect excuse to indulge that craving or enjoy different cuisines.

Children will have plenty to keep them busy as they kick off the unofficial start of summer. Bouncing, flying and climbing will be on their "to



Every year thousands visit Rockville's Town Center and enjoy all that Hometown Holidays has to offer.

do" lists as they enjoy the variety of rides and games offered in the children's area.

Following the Memorial Day ceremonies on Monday,

the weekend-long celebration will culminate with the 63rd annual Rockville Memorial Day Parade. More details on Hometown

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See Inside For Daily Schedule

Holidays are in the special insert in this edition of *Rockville Reports* and on the City Web site at www.rockvillemd.gov/events. **RR**

Fifteen Minutes I Will Never Forget

A First Person Perspective by Kimberly O'Sullivan, Rockville Reports Editor

As Editor of *Rockville Reports*, my name normally will not be beneath a headline. However, as a new employee with Rockville, I feel compelled to write in the first person about one of my first assignments.

I was asked to cover the program "Every 15 Minutes," which I knew very little about. I did know, however, that "Every 15 Minutes" gets its name from the grim statistic when the program started, someone was killed or injured every 15 minutes in an alcohol related car accident somewhere in the nation. I also knew that this program simulates a "real" drunk driving accident with "fatalities" and "injuries" that involve members of Students Against Drunk Driving and oftentimes their parents. "Every 15 Minutes" ends with a parent's worst nightmare -- having to claim a "deceased" child from the emergency room.

I went to cover this event already with a heavy heart. Since I can be an emotional person, I suspected this event would affect me. And I was right. All morn-



Rescue workers and students take seriously their roles in "Every 15 Minutes."

ing at Rockville High School, in 15-minute increments, I walked with a member of the Rockville Police Department, the "Grim Reaper" and several students into classrooms as the Grim Reaper called out a name or two of a student in class who had just "died" in an alcohol related car accident. After the dead student(s) left the class, the police officer read their obituary to the entire class. I noticed right away how reading obituary after obituary took its toll on the officer. It didn't take long for me to personally be affected as well, especially after seeing the "dead"

students come back to class in face makeup that was meant to simulate death.

After a few hours, it was time for the main event. I was expecting a beat up car outside the main entrance of the school and a lecture by the police telling the kids, "look at this car, this could be you." What I saw next was what I would have expected to see if I really experienced a horrific accident. Yes, there was a beat up car. But I took a closer look inside the car, and I saw students with life-like gashes on their face, neck, torso and legs.

continued on pg. 2...



NEW RIDE ON BUS EXTENDS SERVICE TO COMPLETE ROCKVILLE LOOP... Ride On's Route 45 bus service to the Rockville Regional Transportation Center in the Falls Grove Shopping Center is now offering service all day Monday through Saturday. The new, extended Route 45 will provide service to the Rockville Regional Transportation Center via Hurley Avenue, Wootton Parkway, Glen Mill Road, Darnestown Road, Shady Grove Road, Blackwell Road, and Falls Grove Drive. This service extension loops through Rockville and will help connect the new Rockville Town Center with other parts of the City - and eventually form the route for new shuttle buses in town center. Above from left to right: City Councilmember Susan Hoffmann, Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett, City Councilmembers Anne Robbins, Robert Dorsey and Phyllis Marcuccio.

City Government: This Month's Happenings

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CITY POLICE HOST ARGENTINIAN POLICE OFFICIALS...
The City of Rockville Police Department was honored to host the Chief of Police from the Province of Córdoba, Argentina, General Hector Daniel Pino and The Minister for Defense for the Province of Córdoba, Argentina, Dr. Juan Carlos Massei. They were here on a four day visit to Maryland as part of a Law Enforcement Positive Relationship Program. The first day was spent with the Maryland State Police. The second day's morning was spent in Rockville where a group of City Police Officers, including Chief Terry Treschuk, spoke to them about community policing efforts and the use of technology in law enforcement. They also had the opportunity to see up close different types of police vehicles and how each one is used. Above, left to right: Parking Enforcement Officer Eddie Roman, Alex Zunca, Coordinator of the "North To South" Project, Police Lieutenant Robert Rappoport, Joanne Magro, President JTM associates, General Pino, Treschuk, Dr. Massei, Police Sergeant Alan Rawlins.

Ties that Bind — 50 Years and Counting

Since 1957, Rockville, Maryland and Pinneberg, Germany have remained Sister Cities – cities sharing the common goal of making our world a little smaller, a little friendlier, and a little more understood. For the last 50 years, through exchanges, special events, visits, hosting and education offerings, Rockville residents involved with the Pinneberg Sister City Program have learned to appreciate other cultures and have developed lasting and meaningful friendships with the residents of Pinneberg.

Pinneberg is located nine miles north of Hamburg, Germany; is known as the City of Roses and has the largest area of cultivating roses in the world. Pinneberg's 75-acre forest, "Der Wald," inspired the famous composer Johannes Brahms. Visitors to Pinneberg can enjoy the beauty of that same forest on foot, bicycle,



or horseback. Similar to Rockville, Pinneberg is predominately a suburban region with a retail center and government center within the city limits.

This year Rockville and Pinneberg celebrate the 50th anniversary of their partnership. Each city will send an official delegation to its Sister City for the anniversary celebration. In commemoration of this anniversary, the Rockville Sister City Corporation will present a hand-made anniversary banner to the Deutsch-Amerikanische Gesellschaft at the Pinneberg official celebration during the first week of June. **RR**

Rockville Town Square: 'Best' in Two Major Categories

The Maryland/DC Chapter of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties bestowed Rockville Town Square "Best Mixed-Use Project" and "Best Smart Growth Master Plan" during its awards ceremony in May.

Rockville Town Center offers the perfect combination of residential and retail properties as well as public facilities, thus the honor of "Best Mixed-Use Project." "Best Smart Growth" is an acknowledgment of the outstanding incorporation of smart growth principals such as mass transit and civic uses.

"We are thrilled with this recognition as we head to the home stretch of Rockville Town Center

completion," said Art Chambers, Director of Community Planning and Development Services. "We set out to develop a mass transit and pedestrian-oriented community that offers something for everyone and we feel we accomplished that goal."

The Rockville Town Center consists of 644 residential units, more than 40 retail shops and restaurants, the newest Montgomery County Regional library and the Arts and Innovation Center. The Rockville Town Center will play host to Rockville's Hometown Holidays Memorial Day Weekend.

For more information about Rockville Town Center, contact David Levy at 240-314-8272. **RR**

Carlos Vargas Named New Human Resources Director

City Manager Scott Ullery has appointed Carlos Vargas to the position of Director of Human Resources. Vargas will begin his employment with the City on June 4, 2007. Vargas succeeds Richard Hajewski who retired after 17 years of service as Human Resources Director.

Vargas comes to the City from Montgomery County where he served in progressively responsible positions in the Office of Human Resources for about a decade. Vargas currently is Division Manager, Management Services, where he directs labor and employee

relations, recruitment and selection, and classification and compensation. His experience with the County also includes staffing, benefits, organizational development, training, alternative dispute resolution, and labor negotiations. Before working for Montgomery County, Vargas served for more than seven years as a Senior Human Resources Specialist for the National Park Service.

"Carlos brings to Rockville extensive experience in all areas of Human Resources and in-depth knowledge of various areas of local government," said Ullery. "This knowledge and

experience, as well as Carlos's leadership skills, are crucial for this important position. I am confident Carlos will maintain and enhance the excellent service our Human Resources Department provides to the City and its employees."

Said Vargas, "This is a great opportunity to be part of a highly respected, well managed team. I am confident that I can continue to lead the City's Human Resources Department to achieve innovative, positive outcomes."

Vargas received his Bachelor's of Arts in Psychology from the University of Maryland and his MBA with a concentration in Human Resources Management from Johns Hopkins University. **RR**

15 Minutes

continued from pg. 1...

A substance I heard was made from peanut butter but looked exactly like blood, was poured over the injured and deceased. Two "victims" were "hit" by a vehicle driven by an under aged drunk driver.

One survived and one did not. Once the 911 call was made, the police came with their sirens blaring followed by the fire department. The students were allowed outside to see and experience for themselves the ramifications of this mock alcohol-related accident.

With tears in my eyes, I tried to take pictures of the event, get out of the way of the rescue efforts, and absorb as much of what was going on that I could.

But I simply couldn't take my eyes off the girl who was "dead." I watched as the police officer gently draped her with a cover. They left her toe exposed and I wondered to myself – did they do this on purpose? So the kids could see there was a real person under that drape? The "blood" that poured out of her head came very close to the young man next to her who had luckily survived the accident. The police were questioning the boy lying on the ground. "Do your hips hurt? How about your legs?"

I was impressed by the professionalism and care taken by all rescuers involved because even though they knew not everyone could hear what they were saying, no one was simply going through the motions. This may have been a drill but this was not a drill. To them this was real. And not just for the majority of the kids who



The Grim Reaper waits for the next "victim" of a mock accident.

watched by the sidelines, but also the kids, the "victims" who were in the throes of the accident.

To my right were the "dead" standing off to the side. All white faced and dead. They weren't talking, they weren't moving. To my left were the majority of the kids, behind the tape and many of them were crying. I couldn't help myself, and I took their picture. These were the same kids who were with me earlier, alongside the officer and the Grim Reaper.

I thought what I was watching was the entire exercise until I realized that behind me, less than 10 feet away, was another police officer giving the "driver" a sobriety test. He failed. He was handcuffed, brought down to the Rockville City Police Station and booked for drunk driving.

So much had happened in those very loud, very chaotic minutes that I forgot about the passengers in the car. I missed the rescuers using the "jaws of life" that helped get out a passenger or two.

Sadly, a young man in the back seat didn't "make it."

It began to rain when the shock trauma helicopter touched down in the baseball field to take

the "gravely injured" to the hospital. By the time I reached Shady Grove Hospital the accident portion of "Every 15 Minutes" was over. Unfortunately, I missed the moment when a parent experienced her child being pronounced "dead." After the morning I had, I'm ok with this.

The day's events were videotaped by The Rockville Channel (TRC 11), and then quickly edited into a dramatic video that was shown the next day during an assembly. (TRC will show this video throughout June. See program schedule on page 8.)

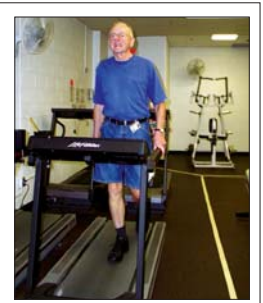
I was happy to learn that since this program began, the 15 minutes statistic has increased to approximately 30 minutes. Obviously more work is needed but progress is being made.

Each year "Every 15 Minutes" occurs in a different Rockville high school, and each year tremendous dedication and support is shown. The Rockville Police, school officials, students, parents, several public safety agencies, and volunteers all left me with a lasting impression from an event I will never forget. And I consider myself lucky to have been a part of it. **RR**



Rockville Senior Center's Fitness Room is THE Place to Exercise –

Unfortunately, two photographs published in the Special Supplement to the November 2006 issue of *Rockville Reports* "Senior Services: Adding Years to Your Life and Life to Your Years" were incorrectly labeled. The persons in these photos are, at left, Yi Jeng Ho and Earl Estelle. *Rockville Reports* regrets this error.



Not So Fast! Speed Camera Citations Enforcement Being Used

The Rockville City Police, in partnership with Montgomery County Police, began issuing citations to speed violators captured by the new speed camera system on May 2. The Mobile photo-speed enforcement camera van is monitoring 12 designated streets within Rockville that meet the monitoring criteria established in the state law. This program is approved for all of Montgomery County. During the warning period, March 12 through April 24, the City captured images of more than 2,900 vehicles traveling at least 11 miles over the speed limit. More than 130 vehicles were issued multiple warnings; one vehicle received five.

"We know this program is working," said Terry Treschuk, Chief of Police. "We are seeing that people are slowing down when driving through our residential neighborhoods and school zones. We're optimistic this program will have a direct impact on decreasing the number



Police Chief Terry Treschuk is supported by Montgomery County Police Chief J. Thomas Manger and Rockville Mayor Larry Giammo as he declares that speed cameras are now issuing citations at a press conference May 2.

of accidents and injuries caused by speeding."

Owners of vehicles photographed driving at least 11 miles an hour above the speed limit

will be issued a citation, accompanied by a \$40 civil penalty, which means no points will be assigned to the driver. If the citation is believed to be issued in error, it can be contested in Maryland District Court. Citations may be paid online, by mail or in person as noted on each violation notice.

All fines collected through this speed enforcement program will be used to cover the expenses of the program and for initiatives that will increase overall pedestrian safety, such as the installation of additional streetlights, education and outreach programs, and the building of additional sidewalks. New roadway traffic calming devices such as roundabouts and lane narrowings also may be installed and paid for through this program.

For more information on this program, or to see speed camera locations, visit the City's Web site at www.rockvillemd.gov/residents/police/speedcameras.htm. Camera locations are subject to change. **RR**

Joint Effort Curbs Nighttime Burglaries

In response to a recent cluster of late night convenience store burglaries, Rockville City Police and Montgomery County Police are working together in a proactive attempt to halt these crimes and catch those responsible.

The two forces collaborated to deploy a team of plainclothes and uniformed officers at strategic times of night to locate perpetrators. On the first night of the joint operation, police officers and the City's police dog, Rocko, apprehended two burglars after they were observed breaking into a convenience store in the Rockville area.

Police are still investigating if the arrested men were involved in the other late night burglaries.

"Providing Rockville residents and local businesses with safety and protection at all hours of the night is one of the City's top priorities," said Terry Treschuk, Chief of Police. "We hope taking this proactive approach is sending the message to would-be criminals that it's best to rethink their actions. This successful joint venture with Montgomery County police is a particularly noteworthy example of the day-to-day cooperation between City and County police to maintain and

enhance public safety."

Rockville City Police units involved in the joint effort include the Tactical Patrol Team and its K-9 unit, the Criminal Investigations Unit of the Special Operations Bureau, and the patrol units of the Field Services Bureau. At the County level, the 1st District Special Assignment Team, the 1st District Investigative Services Unit and uniformed patrol units were involved in this action to apprehend the nocturnal burglars.

For more information, contact Rockville City Police Criminal Investigations Unit at 240-314-8938. **RR** — by Allie Gebhardt

City of Rockville Water Main Flushing Continues Added Benefit Assures All Fire Hydrants Functioning Properly

Rockville Public Works crews are approximately two weeks ahead of schedule in their biennial water main flushing project. Water main flushing will remove an estimated 80 percent of accumulated fine iron and manganese oxide sediment from the City water system.

Crews have begun water main flushing in the West End and central part of the City, followed by East Rockville. To minimize inconvenience to City residents, water main flushing will take place between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. During this time residents should refrain from laundering their clothes as their water may be discolored. The discoloration is not a public health hazard and resi-



Biennial water main flushing is continuing.

dents can let their water run for a few minutes until the discoloration subsides.

"This preventive maintenance provides two major benefits," said Craig Simoneau, Director of Public Works. "First, it assures delivery

of high quality water, and second, it makes sure that all hydrants are fully functioning if an emergency were to occur."

Rockville owns, operates and maintains 1,369 fire hydrants throughout the City. These hydrants are painted red with a black bonnet. Hydrants maintained by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission; are painted green and gray. Remember to not park in front of hydrants and to clear snow from them in the winter months.

Contact the Public Works department at 240-314-8567 for information on water main flushing. Also, maintenance personnel should be contacted if a fire hydrant is leaking or its cap is off. **RR**



Representatives from many Rockville neighborhoods attended.

Diverse Neighbors are Engaging One Another

A group of eager citizens, dedicated to making their neighborhoods better, participated in the City's 2007 Neighborhood Network Learning Series April 28. People from many areas of Rockville and with diverse backgrounds gathered to discuss communication and engagement within their neighborhoods.

The first of several workshops explored Rockville's increasing diversity, examining how each citizen can ex-

pand his or her comfort zone, practice new communication skills, and reach out across differences to find neighbors and community.

Other workshops shared creative and innovative ways to communicate with neighbors and the City.

Lastly, this learning series provided an opportunity for the residents to network, problem-solve and share advice and experiences that will help them make a difference in their community. **RR**

Tell Us About Your Caring And Thoughtful Neighbor Nominations for Good Neighbor Awards Due July 9

Rockville is a city of neighborhoods, but what makes the neighborhoods special is the neighbors. Residents in all of Rockville's neighborhoods continually reach out to lend a hand, support and welcome each other. To recognize those special people and encourage more good deeds, the City of Rockville is accepting nominations for the 5th annual Mayor and Council Good Neighbor Awards.

To commemorate the fifth year of the award program, the Mayor and Council will move the awards ceremony to the rooftop terrace of the new Arts and Innovation Center on August 1. Awardees will be honored and have an opportunity to celebrate their accomplishment with the nominators, family and friends.

The Mayor and Council Good Neighbor Awards recognize neighbors who have gone above and beyond neighborly duty by dedicating themselves to bettering their neighborhoods and improving quality of life. Past winners have been acknowledged for continually mowing an

elderly neighbors lawn; helping with emergency efforts during a storm; volunteering countless hours at various City agencies; and cleaning up Rockville's many parks and streams.

"The Good Neighbor Awards program allows the City to publicly thank residents for their unselfishness and to pay tribute to their

commitment and dedication," said Dwayne Jenkins, Neighborhood Resources Coordinator.

Nominations are due July 9, and nominees can be of any age, must be a resident of the City of Rockville, and must have

made their significant contributions between July 2006 and June 2007. Rockville City employees are not eligible.

To nominate someone for this award, submit a completed nomination to Dwayne Jenkins, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850 by July 9. The form and more information is available online at www.rockvillemd.gov/government/citymanager/gnaward.htm or contact Jenkins at 240-314-8343. **RR**

"...gone above and beyond neighborly duty by dedicating themselves to bettering their neighborhoods..."

Asphalt Paving Scheduled During Summer Months

Keeping Rockville City streets free from potholes has continued to be a priority for Rockville's Department of Public Works. To accomplish this goal, asphalt paving is scheduled to begin approximately July 5 and will continue through mid-October.

Residents in the areas of the scheduled repaving will receive notice when crews are about to begin via a letter, signs and variable message boards.

The following list of streets is the approximate order by which the paving will take place.

- Tower Oaks Boulevard from Montrose Road to Wootton Parkway
- Wootton Parkway from Rockville Pike to Falls Road
- Wootton Parkway from Falls Road to Darnestown Road
- Research Boulevard from West Gude Drive to West Montgomery Avenue
- West Gude Drive (Eastbound lanes only) from Research Boulevard to Frederick Road
- College Parkway from Frederick Road to Nelson Street
- Nelson Street from West Montgomery Avenue to Frederick Road
- Mannakee Street from Henderson Circle to Hungerford Drive
- Calvert Road
- Roxboro Road
- Brent Road
- Aberdeen Road
- Adclare Court
- Adclare Road
- Laird Street from West Montgomery Avenue to Anderson Avenue
- Alley #14 from Williams Street to dead end
- Dover Road from North Horners Lane to City Limits
- Lincoln Street from North Horners Lane to Neal Drive
- Taft Street from Lofstrand Lane to East Gude Drive
- Rothgeb Service Drive from limit of new paving to dead end
- Twinbrook Parkway from Veirs Mill Road to Baltimore Road
- McAuliffe Drive from Bradley to Twinbrook Parkway
- Viers Mill Service Drive (north side) from Twinbrook Parkway to Meadow Hall Drive
- Tweed Court from Linthicum Street to end
- Tweed Street from Linthicum Street to end
- Bradley Avenue from Broadwood Drive to past Fletcher
- Veirs Mill Service Drive (south side) from Gail to Midway
- Dodge Street from Viers Mill Road to Rockville Pike
- Pier Drive from City Limits to Twinbrook Parkway
- Halpine Road
- from east of tracks to City Limits
- East Jefferson Street from dead end north of Congressional to City Limits.

All work is weather sensitive and subject to change without notice. **RR**

Sunday, May 27, 2007

A Fun Run/Walk & Bike Ride to Benefit Rockville Kids

Choose your fun:

- 2-mile Walk or Run
- 5-mile Walk or Run
- 12-mile Family Fun Ride
- 25-mile Neighborhood Discovery Tour

www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/bicycling/ride-rockville
Or call 240-314-8119



SAME LOCATIONS FOR 2007

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Saturdays
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
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Wednesdays
Starting June 6
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
(E. Montgomery Ave.
in Rockville Town Center)

For more info,
call 240-314-8620
or online at
www.rockvillemd.gov/events
for a listing of seasonal
availability of produce



City of Rockville
Department of Recreation and Parks

Stormwater Management Utility Fee Rates and Billing Options (Part 3 of a 3-Part Series)

Beginning this summer, you will be reading and hearing acronyms such as "SWM" and "ERU," and you will be given opportunities to tell the Mayor and Council what you think of them and related issues.

In November 2006, the Mayor and Council voted to develop a funding plan based on a new annual fee to support stormwater management (SWM) programs through a SWM Utility. This summer, enabling legislation is expected to be introduced, followed by public hearings. A resolution setting the fees is expected to be on the Mayor and Council's agenda in early 2008.

As detailed in last month's *Rockville Reports*, the Mayor

and Council decided to use a fee rather than a tax to fund maintenance of and upgrades to the City's storm water drains and SWM facilities, reduce stream erosion and pollution, and to meet costly federal requirements. A fee will be based on the amount of "impervious" surface (e.g., driveways, rooftops, parking lots) on a property, whereas a tax would not be related to such surfaces and would place a heavier financial burden on residential properties than on commercial properties.

Estimated SWM Utility Fee Rates

The amount of impervious surface is directly related

to the amount of storm water run off from each property. In Rockville, the typical single-family residential impervious surface is 2,330 square feet, and since it is roughly the same for all single-family properties, it provides the base unit for determining the SWM fee. This unit is called an Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU), and each single-family residential unit would be charged one ERU. In the first year, the fee is expected to be about \$56 for each ERU, and it is expected to gradually increase to about \$89 in the seventh year.

Compared to single-family homes, the office, retail, institutional, and multi-family properties vary widely in

impervious area, and so do their impacts on stormwater management facilities and programs. Using aerial photography, the City has measured impervious areas and calculated the number of ERUs on these properties. Each property would be charged a multiple of the ERU rate to match its impervious area. For example, a store with a roof and parking lot of 23,330 square feet (a little over a half-acre) would have ten times as much impervious area as a typical single family lot, so the store owner would pay 10 times as much, or about \$560 in the first year and about \$890 in the seventh year.

Billing Methods

Similar to Montgomery County, the City's tentative plan is to list the SWM fee on the annual property tax bill. The Mayor and Council vote on the fee in January 2008, and the

fee will occur in the first billing cycle in the summer of 2008.

Townhouse and condominium communities present a special case since they share common impervious areas, such as parking lots and tennis courts, in addition to their homes. The City may offer two billing options to these communities: either the City would divide the common areas equally between the housing unit owners, or it would bill the homeowners' association directly for the common areas, and the association would determine how to split the cost between its members. The City will discuss this with the associations to determine the preferred method.

For more updated information, check the City's Web site, www.rockvillemd.gov, or contact Lise Soukup, Civil Engineer II, 240-314-8515, or Lsoukup@rockvillemd.gov. **RR**

INSIDE MAYOR & COUNCIL

A Glimpse into the
City Government at Work

Mayor and Council Set to Adopt Budget Three Forms of Tax Relief to be Provided Totaling \$2.7 Million

The Mayor and Council are scheduled to adopt the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Program (CIP) at their May 21 meeting, just after this edition of *Rockville Reports* goes to press. While finishing touches were still being put on the budget as this article was written, the Mayor and Council had made some major decisions, particularly in the area of property tax relief.

The Mayor and Council voted to reduce the property tax rate from 31.2 cents to 30.2 cents per hundred dollars of assessed value. This follows a similar one-cent reduction provided in the current budget. For the owner of a home assessed at \$300,000, this would be an annual savings of about \$30. The property tax rate reduction would apply to both residential and commercial properties and would reduce City revenue by about \$1 million.

To provide this tax rate reduction, the Mayor and Council directed implementing a "selective hiring freeze with the exception of those positions for public safety" and deferring Capital Improvement Projects that are funded by contributions from the general fund. The hiring freeze and project deferrals are to be considered for reinstatement "in accordance with financial indicators as future quarterly reports become available." Staff was directed to develop a plan for implementing these directives.

The Mayor and Council also voted to provide a flat \$100 property tax credit per owner-occupied home under the State's Income Tax Offset Program. This credit applies to only owner-occupied residential properties and would reduce City revenue by about \$1.5 million.

Additionally, the City will continue its Homeowners' Tax Credit program that provides property tax relief to low- and moderate-income taxpayers. This is a sliding scale credit, which, last year, provided 630 households an average \$308 reduction in property tax. This program provides about \$200,000 in tax relief.

The Mayor and Council deferred making any changes to the City's refuse and recycling collection program while staff continued to work on cash flow and other financial analyses of options that have been identified. The analysis is not expected

to be completed until after the May 21 budget adoption date, so the budget includes money for the program to continue on as it is now, including a semi-automated, once-per-week pickup in pilot area. The refuse rate per month would increase by \$1.70 to \$32.70.

The Mayor and Council also deferred addressing the City's financial management policies that had been drafted to provide additional guidance to staff in areas such as the budget, reserves, debt and investing.

If no changes are made before the budget is adopted, the water rates would increase 10 percent in each of three tiers and would continue to be tied to usage, and the sewer rate would increase five percent to \$3.82 per thousand gallons.

With the Town Square area of Town Center approaching completion, the budget also sets up two new taxing districts for properties in that area to fund maintenance and improvement of certain amenities within the districts. The Town Square Street and Area Lighting District would levy a tax on commercial and residential properties, and the Town Square commercial District would levy taxes on commercial properties within Town Square.

As part of their budget deliberations, the Mayor and Council also considered the recommendations of the Compensation Commission. Although the commission recommended increases in the Mayor and Council's compensation, the Mayor and Council directed staff to prepare a resolution for the May 21 meeting to keep the compensation at its current level for the next two years.

There are several funds that make up the operating budget; together they total \$93.8 million, an increase of 9.5 percent over the FY07 budget. The increase is largely the result of a growing community, the need to provide services to all areas, new facilities and the corresponding operating costs, and increased costs of labor, supplies, and commodities.

The May 21 budget adoption culminates a public process that included a review of the FY 08 expected expenses and revenues, the presentation of the City Manager's recommended budget, two public hearings, and three Mayor and Council work sessions. The new budget takes effect July 1. **RR**



CHARACTER COUNTS PROGRAM AWARDS BIKE TO ROCKVILLE YOUTH... Presentation of bikes to children who have earned a bicycle through the "Character Counts!" Bicycle Recycling Program initiated by Rockville's Department of Recreation and Parks.

Twenty-three deserving children who did not own a bike, and wished to earn one, were rewarded for demonstrating good character traits such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

Each child, who successfully completed the program, was presented with a certificate and bumper sticker during the May 7 Mayor and Council Meeting.



POPPIES ARE A TRADITION OF REMEMBRANCE... The 2007 Poppy Girl for American Legion Auxiliary Unit 86 is Bryanna Tolliver. The poppy became a symbol of the sacrifice of lives in war, and represented the hope that none had died in vain.

Rockville's Mayor and Council declared May 28, 2007 as Rockville Poppy Day to honor and recognize the sacrifices made by American veterans, and others who serve our country.

Citizens who commemorate this day will demonstrate their faith in those men and women who died in the cause of liberty and justice throughout the years.

As part of her reign as Poppy Girl, Bryanna will participate in the City of Rockville's Memorial Day Parade, May 28.

Mayor and Council Tax Relief Summary Fiscal Year 2008 Budget

- **Property Tax Rate Reduction:** One cent per \$100 assessed value
 - Annual savings of about \$10 per \$100,000 assessed value
 - Revenue decrease to City of about \$1 million
- **Property Tax Credit:** Flat \$100 property tax credit per owner-occupied home
 - Revenue decrease to City of about \$1.5 million
- **Homeowner's Tax Credit:** For low- and moderate-income property taxpayers
 - Sliding scale; average savings of \$308 last year
 - Revenue decrease to City of about \$200,000



Mayor
Larry Giammo



Councilmember
Bob Dorsey



Councilmember
Susan R. Hoffmann



Councilmember
Phyllis Marcuccio



Councilmember
Anne M. Robbins

Mayor & Council Drop In

The Mayor and one Councilmember are available to meet with residents on a drop-in basis in the Mayor and Council office at City Hall from 5:30-6:30 p.m. one Monday per month. Call the City Clerk's Office at 240-314-8280 as drop-in times are subject to change.

In addition to Mayor Giammo, the Councilmember scheduled for June is:

- **Mon., June 11:** Phyllis Marcuccio

Mayor & Council Meetings

All General Sessions, Work Sessions and Public Hearings are televised on The Rockville Channel (TRC 11), and are available on streaming video at: www.rockvillemd.gov. Citizens may comment on any subject for up to three minutes during the "Citizens Forum" at most meetings. All meetings are subject to change.

- **June 11 (Mon.)** Citizens Forum, 7 p.m.
- **June 18 (Mon.)** Citizens Forum, 7 p.m.

Watch Mayor and Council meetings live on



Boards & Commissions Vacancies

The City is seeking applicants for appointment to the following:

- Cultural Arts Commission (one)
- Environment Commission (one)
- Historic District Commission (one)
- Human Rights Commission (one)
- Human Services Advisory (consumer representative) (one)
- Personnel Appeals Board (one)
- Rockville Sister City Corporation (one)
- Senior Citizens Commission (one)

For more information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at 240-314-8280 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov

OUT & ABOUT IN ROCKVILLE

Highlighting City Events and Programs



Glenview Mansion anchors the Rockville Civic Center, hosts community events, and can be rented for weddings, business meetings, and other private events.

Civic Center Anniversary Invites Residents to Look Back and Think Ahead

Rockville residents can discover in just one afternoon the diversity of the year-round activities presented at the Rockville Civic Center by looking at the past and moving into the future.

At the Rockville Civic Center 50th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, June 30, from 12 noon to 5 p.m., the City will commemorate the center's five decades of engaging with and serving the community.

Free entertainment and activities will be stationed throughout the center, including attractions at Glenview Mansion, the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, the Croydon Creek Nature Center and the park grounds.

Attendees can expect appearances by the U.S. Navy Band Ensembles, several local performance groups and exhibits including antique cars, Peerless Rockville displays, artwork and artists painting on the lawn. Historic presentations, garden tours and so much

more will be available for guests. Kids can embark on a treasure hunt, among other activities.

The City purchased Glenview Mansion and the first 50 acres of land in 1957 for \$125,000, as Rockville was a growing community in need of a civic center, and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre was built on the property a few years later.

Glenview Mansion provides the Rockville community with more than just a pretty façade — the rich 50-year history, heritage and established relationships of this bustling Civic Center match the intrigue of the mansion's visual beauty.

Since its foundation, the Civic Center has affiliated and maintained relationships with more than 35 local organizations and programs to provide support and recreation to the community.

For more information, call 240-314-8660 or check out www.rockvillemd.gov. **RR**

City 'Built Upon a Rock' Welcomes Dinosaurs

Rockville's participation in this year's Montgomery County Heritage Festival will feature a special DinoRock performance, sponsored by Aggregate Industries, and new, interactive activities that are sure to captivate and show families exactly why Rockville "rocks."

The Heritage Days events will begin Saturday, June 23, at 12 noon, and the popular life-size DinoRock puppets will take the Town Center Plaza stage at 4 p.m. for a prehistoric jam session.

Family-oriented activities that highlight the history, geology, masonry, sculpture and Stone-Age culture of Rockville will run through Sunday, June 24, at three locations: Rockville Town Center, Historic Baptist Cemetery and the Beall Dawson House.

"This year we decided to introduce a prehistoric theme and broadly interpret anything 'rock' related, so we included dinosaurs and the idea of ancient Rockvillians,"

said Jeff Winstel, City historic preservation planner. "By offering kid-friendly attractions, we hope families will be enthusiastic about the event and have more fun learning about our community's heritage."

Among the activities, attendees can try their hand at gold mining, learn the craft of making rocking chairs, watch first person performances of historical figures, create a charcoal tombstone rubbing, watch a local sculptor chisel a masterpiece, go on an architectural walking tour, participate in a scavenger hunt of masonry marvels and pose as a prehistoric Rockvillian.

The 8th annual Heritage Days events are a joint effort of the City of Rockville, Peerless Rockville and the Montgomery County Historical Society

For more information, visit www.heritagemontgomery.org or contact Winstel at 240-314-8232. **RR**
—by Allie Gebhardt

'Kids! Parks! Performing Arts!' Brings Fun to Summer Nights

For the 18th year in a row, Rockville families have the opportunity to enjoy their summer nights outdoors with the City's "Kids! Parks! Performing Arts!" concert series beginning June 19.

Rockville residents can visit a different community park each Tuesday, stretch out and relax on a blanket or lawn chair, and take in a unique performing arts experience that will delight all ages.

These free, hour-long performances will run through July 31. Performers and locations are listed at right.

In June, attendees can expect two highly entertaining shows from Mark Jaster and Paul Hadfield.

In *Piccolo's Trunk*, Jaster combines music and physical comedy in a playful mime show that engages audience members with its foolish antics and surprises.

The second performance will feature funny guy Paul Hadfield, who produces laughs with his juggling, unicycling and ladder-walking tricks. Described by Discovery Theater, D.C. as "hilarious, artistic, charming, and wacky," Hadfield is sure to turn a dull Tuesday night into a memorable laugh fest.

The first park location for the Jaster show is set for Lincoln Park Community Center at 357 Frederick Avenue.

"We are thrilled that the program is going to kick off at the Lincoln Park Community Center — the kids are really excited," said



Families enjoy entertainment in the park on Tuesday evenings in the Summer.

Kids! Parks! Performing Arts! Lineup

DATE	PERFORMER	LOCATION
June 19	Mark Jaster – <i>Piccolo's Trunk</i>	Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Ave.
June 26	Paul Hadfield – <i>The Funny Guy</i>	Village Green at Falls Grove, Falls Grove Blvd. and Falls Grove Dr.
July 10	Patricia Shih – <i>Big Ideas for the Whole Family</i>	Glenview Mansion – Cottage Lawn, 603 Edmonston Drive
July 17	Mariachi Los Amigos	King Farm Park, 401 Watkins Pond Boulevard
July 24	Wild Zappers	Calvin Park, 1248 Gladstone Drive
July 31	Nada Brahma	Montrose Park, 451 Congressional Lane

Yvette Yeboah, assistant supervisor at Lincoln Park.

The rain site for all performances, except the June 19 show, will be Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive. The June 19 performance rain site will be the Lincoln Park Community Center.

For location verification and directions, call 240-314-8682 after 6:30 p.m. on the day of the show. For more information, call the Department of Recreation and Parks at 240-314-8600, or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/arts/Concerts/kidsparks.htm. **RR**

—by Allie Gebhardt

Add Flavor to Wednesday Lunches with Food, Live Music and Farmers' Market

Each Wednesday, starting June 6, the City will close one block of East Montgomery Avenue in Rockville Town Center and spice up lunchtime with an eclectic variety of free live music and food available from many tasty local venues.

Rockville's Growers Only Farmers' Market also will be on hand selling farm-fresh fruits and vegetables, bedding plants, cut flowers, preserves, honey, herbs, baked goods, and more.

"Out to Lunch Wednesdays" is more than just a unique lunch option — it's a social outing and great family activity to get over the mid-week drag," said Andrew Klee, Rockville's Special Events Manager.

The event runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays through October 30.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/events/otl, or contact Klee at 240-314-8604. **RR**
—by Allie Gebhardt

'Out to Lunch Wednesdays' Musical Lineup

DATE	BAND NAME	STYLE OF MUSIC
June 6	Janine Wilson Band	Blues
June 13	Annapolis Bluegrass Coalition	Bluegrass
June 20	Squeeze Bayou	Traditional Cajun Zydeco
June 27	Sandra Dean, Chris Bloskey and Joel Hoskins	Classic Rock
July 4	<i>No Out to Lunch – Independence Day</i>	
July 11	Back Roads Band	Retro Country
July 18	Rock and Roll Revue	Oldies
July 25	The Lovejoy Group	Latin Jazz & Afro Rhythms
Aug. 1	Project Natale	Classic and Latin Jazz
Aug. 8	John Cocuzzi	Swing
Aug. 15	The Grandsons	Rock & Roll
Aug. 22	Dixie Power Trio	New Orleans Jazz
Aug. 29	Rita Clarke and the Naturals	Bayou Rhythms
Sept. 5	The Newporters	Classic Oldies
Sept. 12	Eric Scott	Soul/Pop
Sept. 19	Rockfish	Rock
Sept. 26	Swing Speak	Jazz

In Brief

The Finest! Youth Performance Troupe

Kudos to *The Finest!* for being recognized for their hard work and talent.

Recently, the troupe was invited to perform for the National Afterschool Alliance Conference in Washington, DC and was recognized by the "Pierians" organization at its Annual Youth Arts Showcase.

Look for *The Finest!* in the Rockville Memorial Day Parade.
CALL 240-314-8633 FOR INFO

Rabies Clinics

Rabies clinics will be conducted from 10 - 11:30 a.m. at the Montgomery County Animal Shelter located at 14645 Rothgeb Drive. Dates are June 24, July 22, August 19, and September 16.

CALL 240-773-5960 FOR INFO

Streetlight Projects

Sixteen new streetlight poles were installed in early May on the west side of MD 28 between Falls Grove Drive and Darnestown Road. This new project will improve safety at this section of West Montgomery Avenue and for the bike path on the west side of the road.

In April, 27 new aluminum poles were installed on Tower Oaks Boulevard to replace rusted poles.

CALL 240-314-8508 FOR INFO

Senior Center Health and Fitness Fair

Join in the fun during the 7th Annual Fitness Fair on Wednesday, May 30 at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. Health screenings such as body fat analysis, blood pressure, hearing, stroke and eyesight will be offered at the fair. Information on AARP, area hospitals, and the City of

Rockville Police will be available.

CALL 240-314-8810 FOR INFO

Rockville's Growers Only Farmers' Market

Rockville's annual Growers Only Farmers' Market provides residents with items picked daily.

The Farmers' Market is now open every Saturday through October 27 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on the corner of Route 28 and Monroe Street. Beginning Wednesday, June 6, the Farmers' Market will expand to twice a week with "Out To Lunch Wednesdays" (see pg. 6 for more information), Rockville's Department of Recreation and Parks' weekly street festival held on East Montgomery Avenue in Rockville Town Center from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. through October 30.

For a complete list of vendors and product availability dates, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/events/farmers.htm.

CALL 240-314-8604 FOR INFO

Find Yourself...



Whether it's Hometown Holidays, Out to Lunch Wednesdays, or just the weekend, there's lots to celebrate and lots of ways to celebrate them in Rockville Town Center!
www.rockvillemd.gov/towncenter

...Celebrating in Rockville Town Center

Still to come in May:

26,27 Hometown Holidays
Taste of Rockville, local bands, kids activities, National bands on the Main Stage and more. 2-10 p.m. Rockville Town Center. 240-314-8605.

27 Ride and Stride For Rockville
organized bike rides, runs and walks to benefit Rockville's Recreation Fund and Youth and Bikeway Funds. 8 a.m. Rockville Town Center. \$25 Adults/\$15 Children under 12. 240-314-8119.

28 63rd Annual Rockville Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade
Marching bands, drill teams, veterans groups and community groups march down North Washington Street, Beall Avenue and Maryland Avenue. 9 a.m.-12 noon. Rockville Town Center. 240-314-8605.

29 Rockville Regional Youth Orchestra Spring Performance
Rockville area youth perform orchestral arrangements of classical tunes under the direction of Bryan Seith. 7:30 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. FREE. 240-314-8682.

29,31 & June 5 Seniors: Email (Intermediate) 1-3 p.m. \$24 MEM/\$30 RES/\$36 NR.

29,31 & June 5 Seniors: Spreadsheets 10 a.m.-12 noon. \$24 MEM/\$30 RES/\$36 NR.

30 Senior Health Fair 11 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE.

CITY

2,9,16,23,30 Growers Only Farmers' Market 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Corner of Route 28 and Monroe Street. 240-314-5022.

6,13,20,27 Out to Lunch Wednesdays Enjoy live music, food and Farmers' Market at this weekly festival. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. East Montgomery Avenue. 240-314-5022.

7,14,21,28 Thursday Night Concert Series Enjoy free concerts at entertainment while shopping and dining in local Town Square businesses. 6-8 p.m. Rockville Town Square Plaza. FREE. 240-314-5022.

30 Glenview Mansion 50th Anniversary Celebration Celebrate 50 years of City ownership of Rockville's only neoclassical, 19th century man-

sion that is the signature home of arts and entertainment. Glenview Mansion. 240-314-8660.

ARTS

The Glenview Mansion Art Gallery and F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre are located in Rockville's Civic Center Park. Arts Hotline: 240-314-5006. Tickets may be purchased online at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre. Service charges apply.

2 Rockville Student Ballet Recital 1-3 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. 240-314-8690.

2 Scrapbook: Poetry-N-Motion
A dance recital in memory of Angela Santiago to benefit the Montgomery County Humane Society. 7:30-9:30 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. \$15 general admission. 240-314-8690.

3-26 Glenview Mansion Art Gallery: Michael Baltzer—mixed media; Margaret L. Paris—archival digital prints of Polaroid transfers; Lisa Aerianna Tayerle—mixed media assemblage Mon., Wed., Fri.: 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tues. and Thurs.: 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Opening reception: June 3, 1-4 p.m. Artists talk: June 14, 7:30 p.m. Glenview Mansion. 240-314-8682.

3 Sunday Afternoon Concert Series: Brooker & Bullen Performers present contemporary folk music with an edge to celebrate the opening of this month's art gallery exhibit. 2-3 p.m. Glenview Mansion. 240-314-8682.

8-17 Victorian Lyric Opera Company's Pirates of Penzance Fri.: 8 p.m. Sat.: 8 p.m. Sun.: 2 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. 240-314-8690.

19 Kids! Parks! Performing Arts! Summer Concert Series: Mark Jaster in Piccolo's Trunk Enjoy this wildly popular show with acclaimed mime Mark Jaster. 7:30 p.m. Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Ave. FREE. 240-314-8682.

22-24 Musical Theater Center's "Seussical the Musical"
The colorful tales of Dr. Seuss are brought together by Jojo, in a gumbo of musical styles from Latin to pop, swing to gospel and R&B to funk. Fri.: 7:30 p.m. Sat.: 7:30 p.m. Sun 2 p.m.

F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. \$17.50 adults; \$15.50 child/student/senior.

26 Kids! Parks! Performing Arts! Summer Concert Series: Paul Hadfield Enjoy zany physical comedy, juggling, unicycling and more. 7:30. Village Green at Falls Grove, intersection of Falls Grove Boulevard and Falls Grove Drive. FREE. 240-314-8682.

NATURE

All programs are at the Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road, Rockville Civic Center Park, unless noted. Registration is required. Register online at www.rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8770.

2 Wildflower Walk The spring flowers have bloomed and are waiting for summer. Learn the basics of plant anatomy to identify some plants found around the Nature Center. A naturalist will lead a wildflower walk through the forest preserve. Please dress for the weather. 10:30 a.m.-12 noon. Ages 18-over. \$6 RES/\$7 NR.

9 Father's Day Surprise Celebrate fathers at Croydon Creek Nature Center by making a Father's Day gift for your dad. We'll "shed" some light on which one of Croydon Creek's resident critters has fathered a few offspring and make a surprise present you can give your dad on his special day. If under age 5, bring a non-father adult to help you. 3-4:30 p.m. Ages 3-12. \$7 RES/\$9 NR.

14 Tiny Tot Walk - Buzzing Bees Enjoy a fun hour-long program devoted to the busy life of a bee. Through nature activities and a fun craft, participants will understand the secret lives of bees. Please dress for the weather as this program involves exploring the outdoors. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Ages 2-3 1/2. \$6 RES/\$7 NR.

14 Tyke Hike - Buzzing Bees 1-2 p.m. Ages 3 1/2-6. \$6 RES/\$7 NR.

18,19,20,21,22 Polliwog Camp Three and 4-year olds can go to camp just like the "big" kids! Introduce your child to the wonder and awe of nature. This camp offers nature activities, hikes, crafts, hands-on explorations and a chance to meet animals. Note: Parent or guardian welcome and invited to stay and participate. 10-11 a.m. Ages 3-5. \$52 RES/\$65 NR.

18,19,20,21,22 Polliwog Camp 1-2 p.m. Ages 3-5 \$52 RES/\$65 NR.

25,26,27,28,29 Guppy Camp What's creeping, crawling and flapping your way? Guppy nature camp! Meet the critters that call Croydon Creek home and explore exciting natural history topics. Hands-on activities, experiments, hikes and crafts are all in a day's fun. 9:30 a.m.-12 noon. Ages 5-7. \$87 RES/\$109 NR.

SENIORS

All programs are at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, unless noted. Phone: 240-314-8800.

5 National Museum of the Marine Corps Trip 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. \$35 MEM/\$44 RES/\$55 NR. Register by May 29.

6 June Birthday and Anniversary Party. 1:30-3:00 p.m. Free MEM/Free RES/\$3 NR.

6 Loving and Losing our Animal Friends 10 a.m.-12 noon. FREE.

11,13,18 Digital Photo Editing 10 a.m.-12 noon \$45 MEM/\$56 RES/\$67 NR.

12 Woodworking Club 1-3 p.m. \$3 MEM/\$4 RES/\$5 NR. Register by June 5.

12 Keyboard and Mouse (Beg.) 10 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE/FREE/\$3 NR.

13 Funeral Planning 101 1-3 p.m. FREE.

21 Deep Brain Stimulation 1-2 p.m. FREE.

26 Computer Security 10 a.m.-12 noon. FREE/FREE/\$3 NR.

25,27 Windows XP 1-3 p.m. \$38 MEM/\$47 RES/\$56 NR.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

All meetings are at City Hall unless otherwise noted.

1 Rockville Economic Development, Inc. Board Meeting. 7:30 a.m., 95 Monroe Street (call 301-315-8096).

2 Board of Appeals, 9:30 a.m.

6 Rockville Bike Advisory Committee, 7:15 p.m.

12 Human Services Advisory Commission, 7:30 p.m., Glenview Mansion.

12 Commission on the Environment, 7:30 p.m.

13 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

13 Cultural Arts Commission, 7 p.m.

19 Picnic at Smokey Glen Farm, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., \$17 MEM/\$23 RES/\$29 NR.

19 Rockville Seniors, Inc., 1 p.m., Senior Center.

19 Town Center Action Team, 7 p.m., Chamber of Commerce.

20 Classical Music Appreciation-Music of Bach, 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m. FREE. Register by June 13.

20 Sign Review Board, 2 p.m. (held as needed).

20 Rockville Housing Enterprises, 6:30 p.m., RHE Office, 621 A Southlawn Lane.

21 Rockville Sister City Corporation, 7:30 p.m.

21 Senior Citizens Commission, 10 a.m., Senior Center.

21 Historic District Commission, 7 p.m., Senior Center.

25 Hidden Rockville, 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Register by June 18.

26 Traffic and Transportation Commission, 7:30 p.m.

27 Human Rights Commission, 7:30 p.m.

27 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

28 Book Club, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free MEM/Free RES/\$2 NR. Register by June 21.

28 Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, 7 p.m., Tour.

29 Rockville Economic Development, Inc. Board Meeting. 7:30 a.m., 95 Monroe Street (call 301-315-8096).

Rockville Up Close: REDI Plays Part in Thriving Economic Development

Residents and businesses help shape Rockville through involvement with neighborhood and civic associations and participation on Mayor and Council-appointed Boards and Commissions. On a regular basis, Rockville Up Close will take an in-depth look at these organizations.

Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI) is playing a significant role in attracting new technology companies to set up shop in the City of Rockville. Through the business incubator program in the new Rockville Arts and Innovation Center, international companies wanting to bring their proprietary technology to North America (the Greater Washington Area in particular), as well as domestic technology

companies, are supported as they grow.

Once they have been accepted into the incubator, early-stage companies receive mentoring and support through the Montgomery County Incubator Network. Education, advocacy, networking, and specialized business training are just a few benefits for young companies.

Overhead costs are significantly lower as well. Members of the incubator have individual offices but share common spaces such as conference rooms, server rooms and reception areas. Having 30-35 companies under one roof also creates a collaborative spirit that lends itself to impromptu discussion, quicker problem-solving and increased productivity. In addition, re-



The new Arts and Innovation Center in Town Center will host a business "incubator" to help early-stage companies.

sources such as law firms, banks, and accountants are at their fingertips. The knowledge and expertise companies develop through this program are passed on to newer incubator businesses, which will in turn share their wisdom with future start-up

companies.

Why are incubators a good thing? In short, incubators create jobs! The incubator program positively impacts Rockville by adding jobs and economic stability to the city. Historically, 85 percent of all companies that

graduate from incubators settle within 5 miles of the incubator site, keeping new, high paying jobs within the city. Economic stability is maintained because there is a 90 percent success rate for incubated businesses when measured 5 years after graduation.

"Rockville is where the majority of these businesses will settle," said Sally Sternbach, Executive Director of REDI. "These businesses will become good neighbors to Rockville, will offer meaningful jobs to our residents, and our technological community will continue to thrive as a result."

For more information, contact Sally Sternbach at 301-315-8096 or sternbach@rockville-ledi.org. [RR](#)

2007 Citizen Survey – Residents Weigh In on City Government, Quality of Life

The results are in! The fourth biennial Citizen Survey shows that residents rate Rockville as a great place to live. The 2007

Citizen Survey is a tool used to receive valuable feedback on the services and programs Rockville offers, and gauge how the residents rate their overall quality of life within the city limits. The survey, conducted by the National Research Center, of Boulder, Colorado, had an excellent participation rate of 44 percent. This is a six percent increase from the 2005 Citizen Survey. The six-page 2007 survey was randomly mailed to 3,000 households in the city.

Tom Miller, President of

the National Research Center, Inc. said what made Rockville most notable among its national peers is that 43 of 57 (75

“Rockville ‘most notable’ among its peers... 43 of 57 (75%) programs and services received ratings above national norms”

— Tom Miller, President of National Research Center, Inc.

percent) programs and services received ratings above national norms.

The City of Rockville can boast that 88 percent of residents rated the quality of life in Rockville as “excellent” or “good” while 82 percent rated the city “excellent” or “good” when describing Rockville

as a place to raise children.

Residents also rated Rockville high in other areas.

See the charts at right to see how residents rated some of Rockville’s programs and services.

This data, when compared to other jurisdictions in the nation, rates Rockville very high, well above the national norms. Eighty-one percent of respondents proclaimed Rockville recreation programs and City-sponsored special events were “excellent” or “good”; 84 percent rated the Rockville Senior Center programs and services as “excellent” or “good”.

The survey asked residents new questions about things that will impact their future. In rating the most important elements of future development from highest to lowest, the results were: 86 percent for open space (parks and playgrounds); 76 percent for street level retail stores; 60 percent for residential development; and 49 percent for commercial/office.

Additionally, residents stated the most important issues over the next 15 years should be the increased focus on traffic,

crime/safety, preservation/ redevelopment, congestion/overdevelopment, and affordable housing.

The survey did uncover areas of improvement needed that the City will address. Lack of affordable housing and heavy traffic in their neighborhood were among them. Seventy-eight percent rated available affordable housing as “fair” or “poor”; and 49 percent rated traffic as an “extreme,” “major,” or “moderate” problem. Feelings of safety in gen-

eral, both in commercial and residential areas, were scored below national norms.

The National Research Center presented the survey results to the Mayor and Council at the May 14, 2007 meeting. Based on the analysis of the survey results, the City Manager and staff discussed what actions would take place to focus on areas for improvement.

Results and analysis of the survey is available at [www.rockville.md.gov](#). [RR](#)

STATEMENT	ANSWERED “STRONGLY AGREED” OR “AGREED”
“The City of Rockville welcomes citizen involvement”	67 percent
“I receive good value for the taxes I pay”	62 percent
<i>Basic, but essential, services scored highly:</i>	
STATEMENT	ANSWERED “EXCELLENT” OR “GOOD”
Quality of refuse collection	86 percent
Quality of recycling collection	82 percent

TRC 11	THE ROCKVILLE CHANNEL JUNE PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE						
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12 Midnight until meeting ends	Planning Commission	Historic District Commission	Mayor & Council	Mayor & Council	Historic District Commission	Mayor & Council	Planning Commission
6 a.m.	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
6:30 a.m.	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline
7 a.m.	Hi-Tech Patrol	Informed Citizenry	Service Rockville	Informed Citizenry	Service Rockville	Informed Citizenry	Hi-Tech Patrol
7:30 a.m.	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
8 a.m.	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
8:30 a.m.	Historic District Commission	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Mayor & Council
9 a.m.	-	Recent Past Symposium I	Recent Past Symposium II	Recent Past Symposium I	Recent Past Symposium II	Recent Past Symposium I	-
11 a.m.	-	Every 15 Minutes	Service Rockville	Every 15 Minutes	Service Rockville	Every 15 Minutes	Cityline
11:30 a.m.	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
12 noon	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
12:30 p.m.	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline
1 p.m. until meeting ends	Mayor & Council	Planning Commission	Mayor & Council	Historic District Commission	Planning Commission	Mayor & Council	Planning Commission
4 p.m.	Recent Past Symposium II	-	Rockville's Past: Modernism	Rockville's Past: Modernism	-	Recent Past Symposium II	-
5 p.m.	-	Healthwise	Every 15 Minutes	Healthwise	Every 15 Minutes	Healthwise	Healthwise
5:30 p.m.	-	-	Informed Citizenry	-	Informed Citizenry	-	-
6 p.m.	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
6:30 p.m.	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
7 p.m.	Planning Commission	Mayor & Council	Hi-Tech Patrol	Planning Commission	Hi-Tech Patrol	Historic District Comm.	Mayor & Council
7:30 p.m.	-	-	Informed Citizenry	-	Informed Citizenry	-	Every 15 Minutes
8 p.m.	-	-	Paving The Way	-	Paving The Way	-	Informed Citizenry
8:30 p.m.	-	-	Every 15 Minutes	-	Every 15 Minutes	-	Service Rockville
9 p.m.	-	-	Service Rockville	-	Service Rockville	-	Paving The Way
9:30 p.m.	-	-	Cityline	-	Cityline	-	Cityline
10 p.m.	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
10:30 p.m.	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	M&C Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
11 p.m.	Informed Citizenry	Hi-Tech Patrol	Service Rockville	Hi-Tech Patrol	Service Rockville	Hi-Tech Patrol	Informed Citizenry
11:30p.m.	Every 15 Minutes	Every 15 Minutes	Every 15 Minutes	Every 15 Minutes	Every 15 Minutes	Every 15 Minutes	Every 15 Minutes

Tune into The Rockville Channel (TRC11) for up-to-date Rockville News and Information.

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SUSAN R. HOFFMANN,
PHYLIS MARCUCCIO,
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City Manager: Scott Ulery
Deputy City Manager: Catherine Tuck

Acting Public Information Manager: Douglas E. Breisch
Editor: Kimberly O'Sullivan
Insert Editor: Nicoletta M. Hawkins
Intern: Allie Gebhardt

Graphics & Printing Division:
Carlton Barclay, Eric Ferrell, Sylvia Principe, Nikita Jones, Leon Porter, Lori Russler, Nancy Zombolas

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