Rockville Reports

JANUARY 2016 • VOL. 62 #1

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

'Positive Developments' Featured in FY15 Annual Financial Reports

Summaries Give Public a Look at the City's Fiscal Health

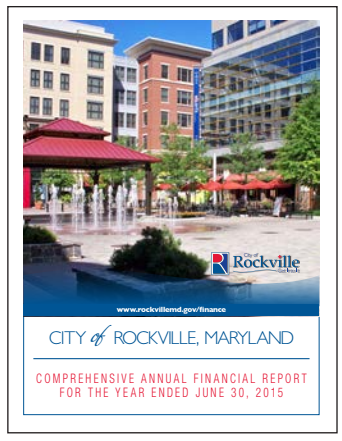
Two annual reports that city staff delivered to the Mayor and Council in December give the public a closer look at Rockville's financial health during the most recently completed fiscal year.

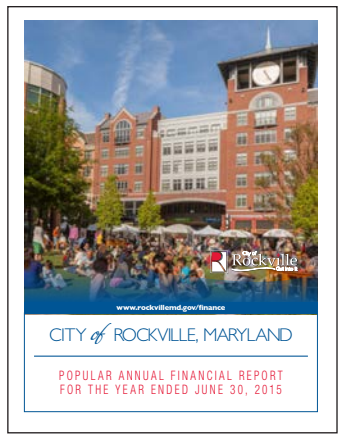
The city ended Fiscal Year 2015, which closed June 30, in good financial standing, City Manager Barbara B. Matthews wrote in the city's Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR), a summary document highlighting the city's finances.

Two rating agencies recently reaffirmed the city's "triple A" bond rating and expressed confidence in the city's financial outlook. See the article on page 3 for more information.

"During FY 2015, Rockville's economy continued to see positive developments, including the construction of new buildings like the Choice Hotels headquarters and the Duball development near Town Center," Matthews wrote. "I am optimistic that we will continue to see positive changes in FY 2016, as this year's budget focuses on smart investments in our infrastructure, city facility improvements and information technology."

New construction means new tax revenue that can be invested to enhance city services. Investments prioritized by the Mayor and Council in the current, Fiscal Year 2016, budget included funding for the stabilization and rehabilitation of the King Farm Farmstead dairy barns, pedestrian safety initiatives and sidewalks, and vehicular bridge repair.





The FY15 PAFR describes:

- The overall financial health of the city.
- Property taxes and utility rates, including how to read tax and utility bills.
- The city's general fund and enterprise funds.
- The city's total debt load.

The Mayor and Council spoke positively of the report and asked that hard copies of it be made available for community members to review. The city created the first PAFR in 2007 as a way to explain, in layman's terms, the information contained in Rockville's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

The PAFR and CAFR are available at www.rockvillemd.gov/financialreports, or call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. To view the presentation to the Mayor and Council, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter and select the television icon next to the Dec. 14 meeting listing.

"Evanescence," by Chris Light, Anthony Padron and Keatyn Garton, adorns a storm drain in Springfield, Mo. Photo courtesy the Storm Drain Reveal, a partnership between the James River Basin Partnership and the City of Springfield (Mo.).

Submit Designs for the Rockville Storm Drain Mural Project

Artists with an interest in the environment have a unique opportunity to use their talents to help educate the public about the impact our collective actions have on local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay.

In celebration of Earth Day on Friday, April 22, the City of Rockville and VisArts are sponsoring the Rockville Storm Drain Mural Project.

The project will use original mural designs to reflect topics related to how storm drains—and what goes into them—impact the health of local waterways. Themes could include water quality, streams, rivers, the Chesapeake Bay, native plants and wildlife, or pollution.

Submit mural ideas by Monday, March 14 to be considered to paint a Rockville storm drain. Find details and the application at https://visarts.submittable.com or call 240-314-8870.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration to Address 'The Challenge'

Performers, Awards and a Theme of 'Building Community' Will Honor King's Legacy

The Mayor and Council invite the community to the city's 44th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration on Monday, Jan. 18. The celebration, at 10 a.m. at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive, will include diverse, interactive and multicultural performances, and awards recognizing Rockville community members who are carrying on King's legacy. Admission is free and open to all.

The celebration will be carried live on Rockville 11 (cable channel 11).

David Ragland will deliver a keynote address with a focus on the theme of **"The Challenge: Building Community in the Age of Ferguson and Baltimore."**

Ragland, who grew up in North St. Louis, a few miles from Ferguson, Mo., is the cofounder

continued on pg. 6…

Rockville Facilities to Close: New Year's and MLK Day

Recycling and Refuse Collection to Be a Day Later During MLK Holiday Week

City Hall and all city facilities will be closed for New Year's Day, Friday, Jan. 1. City Hall and some facilities will also be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 18.

Recycling and refuse collection will not be affected by the New Year's holiday. During the week of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, all recycling and refuse collections will occur one day later than the regular schedule. For more information on holiday collection schedules, call 240-314-8568 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse.

On Thursday, Dec. 31 and Saturday, Jan. 2, Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm and Twinbrook community centers will be open 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

On Monday, Jan. 18:

- Croydon Creek Nature Center, Glenview Mansion and the Rockville Senior Center will be closed.
- The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre box office will be closed. Tickets are always available at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatretix.
- The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center and Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm and Twinbrook community centers will be open regular hours.

Parking fees at city-owned meters will be suspended on both holidays.

For more information, call 240-314-5000 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov.

Get Into It…

PAGE 2 **New Year's Resolutions** *Get fit and stay active in 2016.*

PAGE 3 **Get Connected** *Links, addresses and phone numbers to connect with the Mayor and Council.*

PAGE 4 **'Rock 11' Review** *A rundown of top stories of 2015 from the city's cable television channel.*

PAGE 8 **Pool Back** *Renovations to the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center's South Pool are nearing completion.*

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

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ROCKVILLE, MD.
PERMIT NO. 63

ECR WSS
LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER

IN BRIEF

Camp Guide Has Summer Covered

Registration for Camps, Playgrounds and Teen Activities Begins Jan. 19

Rockville's summer programs are packed with fun for your kids. Details can be found in the camp guide, online Monday, Jan. 4 at www.rockville md.gov/guide.

Rockville's summer programs are open to all families in the Washington metropolitan area. Registration opens Tuesday, Jan. 19.

Summer camps run from June 20-Aug. 24, with a variety of options, including travel, nature, science, theater and more. Swimming, field trips and special theme days are also included. Many camps have extended-day care and limited transportation is available.

Summer Playgrounds bring the fun to your neighborhood, where kids can enjoy supervised play at several neighborhood sites from June 27-Aug. 4. Two sites have extended-day care. Field trips for swimming and other activities are also available. Kids can kick off their summer activities with a Playgrounds Sampler week from June 20-24.

Teens have several options for fun this summer, including a Future Leaders Camp, a skateboarding camp or a volunteer opportunity to work as a Leader in Training at summer camps. The camp guide will have a preview of trips with Teens on the Go. Registration for these trips opens in spring.

We Need Your Support!

Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization established to:

- Improve recreational activities, programs, parks and facilities
- Support the Rockville Youth Recreation Fund
- Assist with fundraising, the acquisition and maintenance of new parks and open space
- Purchase equipment and other amenities for the City's parks and facilities.

Please send your tax deductible gift to:
200-B Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850
www.rrpfi.org • 240-314-8867

17th ANNUAL

Glenview Mansion Wedding Expo

SUNDAY, JAN. 31, 2016 • NOON-4 p.m.

Enjoy more than 30 vendor exhibits and samples, including: • catering • wedding cakes • photography • musical entertainment • floral arrangement • tenting services • event planning and more! *$5 admission at the door.*

Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park
603 Edmonston Dr., Rockville, MD 20851
Recorded direction line: 240-314-5004

City of Rockville

www.rockvillemd.gov/glenview • 240-314-8660

It's a New Year!

Resolve To...

Get Fit and Stay Active

Get your steps in on a treadmill or work on strength training with an **affordable membership at state-of-the-art fitness centers** in the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, Rockville Senior Center (for ages 60 and older) or the Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm and Twinbrook community centers.

Rockville Senior Fitness Center.

Teen, adult, family and senior rates are available. Hours vary at each location but many of the centers are open seven days a week and offer personal training services for a fee.

Each center offers a variety of **fitness classes** geared toward people who prefer to get fit in a group setting. Most winter classes begin the week of Jan. 4. Register at www.rockvillemd.gov/guide.

5K Winter Walk/Run Program.

If you're looking to set a fitness goal for the new year, sign up for the **5K Winter Walk/Run Program**, presented by the city and the Montgomery County Road Runners Club (MCRRC). The program will meet on Tuesdays and Saturdays from January through March.

Registration for the 5K program is $45 for MCRRC members and $55 for non-members. Learn more and register at www.mcrrc.org.

Relax and De-Stress

Did you know that spending time in nature helps to reduce stress?

Winter hikes in Rockville.

Connect with nature and take a quiet **hike through the 120-acre Hayes Forest Preserve** behind Croydon Creek Nature, at 852 Avery Road (off Baltimore Road). The preserve offers a forest, open meadows and a winding creek bustling with wildlife, even in winter. Find a trail map at the center or at www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek.

Yoga classes for all ages.

If yoga is your de-stressing activity of choice, there are a variety of **yoga classes for youth, adults and seniors.** Two sessions of Kids Fit Yoga will be held at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center from January through mid-April for kids ages 8-12.

Yoga classes for adults and seniors will be held at several city facilities, as well as at Thrive Yoga on Rockville Pike. Learn more in the Winter Recreation Guide.

Wine lovers can register for a **Glenview Mansion wine workshop.** Wines of Spain will be featured on Thursday, Feb. 11, while Maryland's Elk Run Vineyard will be featured on Thursday, March 10. See page 25 of the Winter Recreation Guide for details.

Learn Something New

Seniors can learn to paint with acrylics, make a handy wooden footstool in the woodshop or have an engaging conversation with a scientist at the Rockville Senior Center. You're never too old to **learn something new**. If you are looking to spark your creativity this winter, sign up for a program at the senior center or another recreation facility.

If you are age 16 and

Senior Center woodshop.

older and are looking for a new workout routine, **Core and Sculpt** is a new class that will pump up your metabolism and target all of your muscle groups. Try a free demo on Thursday, Jan. 7 and sign up for the full session, which runs from Jan. 21-March 17 at Thomas Farm Community Center. See page 26 in the Winter Recreation Guide for details.

Try a new workout routine.

If you're looking to impress your next dinner party guests, learn a new recipe at a **Let's Cook class** at the senior center, open to ages 18 and older. This winter's class options include Coq au Vin Flambe, Fruit and Cheese Stuffed Porkloin and several others. See page 24 in the Winter Recreation Guide and register today.

Have Fun with the Family

These family-friendly activities are guaranteed to make you smile:

Pajama Jam Movie Night featuring Disney's "Inside Out" on the big screen at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 25 at the Twinbrook Community Recreation Center.

Toddler Time.

Toddler Playtime from 10 a.m.-noon, where kids age 2-5 can socialize, crawl, run and explore in gyms and play areas, is on the following days each week:

Monday: **Morning Moms** at Twinbrook Community Recreation Center.

Tuesday: **Tiny Tots Drop-In** at Thomas Farm Community Center.

Wednesday: **Toddler Time** at Lincoln Park Community Center.

Call 240-314-8620 to learn more.

Croydon Creek's Nature Tots program will be held on select Thursdays and Saturdays this winter. Get to know the nature center's resident animals at **Critters Up Close** classes (for children ages 2-6, with an adult). Learn more on pages 18-19 of the Winter Recreation Guide.

Encourage your child's natural enthusiasm for music and movement through singing, dancing, chanting and instrument play in the city's **Music Together** parent/child classes (open to ages 1 month-5 years). Enjoy

Music Together.

classes on Wednesday or Thursday mornings from January through mid-March. Details are on page 4 of the Winter Recreation Guide.

Connect • Create • Celebrate

Find details on many of these options in the Winter Recreation Guide that was mailed to Rockville homes and is available at www.rockvillemd.gov/guide. Register at rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov or at City Hall or city recreation facilities, or call 240-314-8620.

Mayor & Council

Mayor
Bridget Donnell Newton

Councilmember
Beryl L. Feinberg

Councilmember
Virginia D. Onley

Councilmember
Julie Palakovich Carr

Councilmember
Mark Pierzchala

Important Mayor and Council Dates

Jan. 9: Goal-Setting Meeting from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Pump House, 401 South Horners Lane. *(Not televised.)*
Jan. 11: Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. *(Note time.)*

Meetings are televised on Rockville 11 and available live streaming and on demand at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11.

Drop-in sessions are held monthly at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor and Council office. On **Jan. 11,** Councilmember Virginia D. Onley will join Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton. *No appointment necessary. Call the City Clerk's Office at 240-314-8280 to confirm.*

Learn more about the effort to bring BRT to Montgomery County at www.rockvillemd.gov/brt.

City Continues Public Outreach on Bus Rapid Transit

The public will hear more about a rapid transit study in the coming months as city planners continue working on a county and state effort to improve traffic mobility in the area.

Rockville's bus rapid transit (BRT) study provides concepts and options for BRT integration in Rockville Town Center. It was prepared by outside consultants Environmental Resources Management, EDSA, and Sabra Wang and Associates, and was presented to the Mayor and Council in September.

In December, the Mayor and Council met with elected officials from Gaithersburg and Montgomery County to discuss the future of the BRT project, which includes rapid transit routes along Veirs Mill Road and Rockville Pike.

The Mayor and Council will hold a work session with the study's consultants in February, on a date to be announced. A study update will be provided to the city's Traffic and Transportation Commission and Planning Commission.

The work session will be followed by education and outreach, including meetings with neighborhood groups, business associations, commercial/office building owners and other stakeholders, where the public will hear more about the BRT study and Town Center, and get a chance to share their thoughts.

Meeting dates will be posted at www.rockvillemd.gov/brt as they are finalized. For more, including the consultants' study report, find the Dec. 14 Mayor and Council agenda at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter or contact Andy Gunning at 240-314-8206 or agunning@rockville md.gov.

Mayor and Council Approve Statement of Support for Syrian Refugees

Rockville's Human Rights Commission Urged the City to Show Public Support

Recognizing Rockville as a "welcoming and inclusive community," the Mayor and Council voted unanimously on Monday, Dec. 7 to endorse Montgomery County's support for refugees from Syria and from around the world.

The full motion said: "The Mayor and Council affirms Rockville's role as a welcoming and inclusive community. We firmly believe that the diversity of our residents enhances our city. We fully support Montgomery County's promise to serve as a welcoming community for refugees, including those from Syria."

The Mayor and Council's symbolic statement was prompted by a letter from Rockville's Human Rights Commission (HRC) that urged the Mayor and Council "to affirm publicly that Rockville stands ready to welcome refugees fleeing Syria's civil war."

The HRC letter called on the city to "take a stand for tolerance and humanitarianism," that is counter to the position taken by some federal, state and municipal leaders nationwide, who, in recent months, said that Syrian refugees were not welcome in their communities.

"Rockville exemplifies the vibrancy that can be achieved when diversity is valued," the HRC letter said. "Many in our community are former refugees who have fled humanitarian crises themselves, and have made Rockville stronger and more dynamic through their cultural and economic contributions to our city."

Members of the HRC also testified before the Mayor and Council during the Community Forum portion of the Dec. 7 meeting. Video of their testimony, the Mayor and Council vote and discussion of the statement, and the meeting in its entirety, can be viewed by visiting www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter and selecting the television icon next to the Dec. 7 meeting listing.

The motion approved by the Mayor and Council echoed a Tuesday, Nov. 24 letter, signed by County Executive Isiah Leggett and the entire County Council, to the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The county's letter can be found at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/news/pr/pr_details.html.

Connect With Your Mayor and Council

- **Stay informed.** Mayor and Council meeting schedules and agendas can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil. Sign up at www.rockvillemd.gov/notify me to receive an email or text message when a new agenda is posted online.
- **Follow the action.** Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on most Mondays in the Mayor and Council Chambers at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.; are broadcast live on cable channel 11; and are available at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11 via live streaming and, the day after the meeting, on demand.
- **Stop by a drop-in session.** Learn more in the "Important Mayor and Council Dates" box on this page, and at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil.
- **Speak at Community Forum.** Community members are invited to speak for up to three minutes during the Community Forum portion of each Mayor and Council meeting. Priority is given to speakers who sign up by calling the City Clerk's Office at 240-314-8280 by 4 p.m. on the day of the meeting and to those who are speaking on an agenda item.
- **Send an email** to mayor council@rockvillemd.gov.
- **Testify at a hearing or submit testimony in writing** to cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov or to the City Clerk's Office, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Volunteer to serve on a board or commission.** Boards and commissions provide the Mayor and Council with ideas that shape the city. View vacancies at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions.

IN BRIEF

Mayor and Council to Discuss Vision for FY 2017 Budget

The Mayor and Council will hold their first discussion of priorities for Rockville's Fiscal Year 2017 budget during a work session on Monday, Jan. 11.

It will be televised live on channel 11 on county cable as part of the regular Mayor and Council meeting. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. – a half-hour earlier than usual – and will be available via live streaming at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11 and, the day after the meeting, on demand at www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand. For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter and select the agenda next to the Jan. 11 listing.

BUDGET AT A GLANCE:
Report details city's strong financial standing for the most recently ended fiscal year. *See page 1.*

The FY17 budget will cover July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. Rockville's adopted operating budget for the current fiscal year totals $123.4 million.

To learn more about the current budget, and to find schedules and updates for the FY17 budget process, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget or call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400.

Rockville's 'Triple A' Bond Rating Reaffirmed

Two rating agencies recently reaffirmed the city's "triple A" bond rating and expressed confidence in the city's financial outlook.

The highest-possible rating, awarded by Moody's Investor Services and Standard & Poor's, allows Rockville to borrow money at the most favorable rates.

The rating agencies cited the city's conservative fiscal management, its strong policies and practices, ample reserve levels and low direct debt burden.

On Nov. 16, the city sold just over $10 million in general obligation bonds to Janney Montgomery Scott LLC at a 2.79 percent interest rate. The bond proceeds will be used to finance water and sewer system improvements and refuse vehicle replacements.

Mayor and Council to Discuss Purchasing Study

The Mayor and Council will discuss an outside consultant's study of the city's purchasing operation during their meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 1 at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.

The Mayor and Council commissioned the study in fall 2014. Calyptus Consulting Group reviewed the city's overall purchasing operation and recommended a comprehensive strategy for improvements during a presentation on Oct. 19, 2015. Find the study report in the Oct. 19 agenda at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. To view video of the presentation, select the television icon next to the Oct. 19 meeting listing.

In The Community

IN AND AROUND ROCKVILLE

Get Involved in Planning the Future of the City's Bike Network

Community members have another chance to comment on an update to Rockville's Bikeway Master Plan at a public hearing before the city's Planning Commission on Wednesday, Jan. 27.

Rockville is developing a comprehensive bicycle network to support the growing demand for bicycle facilities. The update to the Bikeway Master Plan offers the opportunity to provide a safe and connected network of bicycle facilities to give people more transportation options.

The public hearing on the draft plan will be part of the agenda at the regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting at 7 p.m. on Jan. 27 in the Mayor and Council Chambers at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave. Priority will be given to speakers who sign up in advance by calling 240-314-8200 by 4 p.m. on Jan. 27.

A previous public hearing was held Oct. 14.

Community members may present additional testimony on the draft plan and the proposed edits, in writing, to the Planning Commission. To learn how, and for more information about the plan update, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/bikewaymasterplan.

The Bikeway Master Plan is a vision for planning the future of the city's bicycle network. Neighborhood feedback will be gathered before implementation.

The City Honors Employees for Their Service to the Community

The Mayor and Council participated in a ceremony on Dec. 10 at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, recognizing 71 employees for reaching service milestones from five years to, in the case of Debbie Prather (pictured above), a permit technician in Community Planning and Development Services, 35 years with the city. Janet Kelly (Neighborhood Resources) and Sgts. J.P. Cowell and George Day (Police) were each recognized for 30 years of service. Collectively, the 71 employees honored have given over 1,000 years of service to Rockville.

Attention Dog Owners

Your dog did his duty, please do yours.

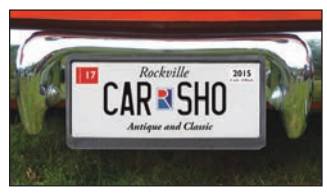
Clean up after your dog.

'Rock 11 Now' Recaps, Reviews and Rewinds 2015

The past year saw the Rockville community go to the polls for a historic city election, welcome a new four-legged friend to the city's police force, rev its engines for a city tradition and pay homage to our veterans and a late civic leader. Through it all, you could count on the "Rock 11 Now" team to bring you those stories. Here's a look back at some of the top "Rock 11 Now" stories from 2015, with links to videos from the city's YouTube channel:

Inauguration Recap

The inauguration of the 65th Rockville Mayor and Council marked the opening of the first four-year terms in Rockville history. "Rock 11 Now" reporter Kolby Ford recaps the inauguration at https://youtu.be/fCHqt-71zSQ.

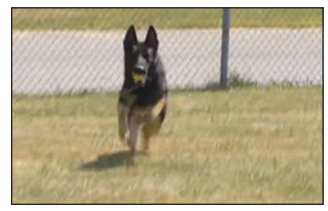


54th Antique and Classic Car Show Special

"Rock 11 Now" director Hagop Balekjian moved in front of the camera to go under the hood and behind the scenes for an exclusive look at the 54th Antique and Classic Car Show. Join him at https://youtu.be/9POwf664dT8.

Veterans Day Ceremony

During the city's annual Veterans Day Ceremony, Rockville once again paid tribute to those who protect our freedom. Experience the sights and sounds of the ceremony in Veterans Park at https://youtu.be/Ew_QK-mIYT4.



Meet Utah

There's a new dog in town. One of the newest members of the Rockville City Police Department is a special rookie: Utah, a young German shepherd K-9. Meet him at https://youtu.be/iKlEfivicnU.

Wilma Shelton Bell Park Renaming

A ceremony renaming Lincoln Terrace Park after community activist and civic leader Wilma Shelton Bell included remembrances of a woman who gave greatly to the community she called home. Learn more about the park's namesake at https://youtu.be/kslY2v2G6z0.

Rockville 11 is the official award-winning government television channel of the City of Rockville, presenting its monthly show, "Rock 11 Now," and special programs. Rockville 11 helps community members connect with their city through news, live public meetings and special features highlighting the city's neighborhoods and residents on cable channel 11, as well as live streaming 24 hours a day, seven days a week at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11. Find more "Rock 11" videos on the city's YouTube channel at www.rockvillemd.gov/youtube.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CITY ON ROCKVILLE 11 Watch www.rockvillemd.gov/youtube

Volunteers prepare to deliver Thanksgiving food boxes to those in need.

Rockville Holiday Drive Helps Hundreds of Residents

Community members and organizations came together to help low-income Rockville residents celebrate Thanksgiving and the December holidays by supporting the city's Holiday Drive this winter.

In November, 470 Rockville households received a Thanksgiving basket and/or grocery store gift card and more than 120 seniors were treated to a Thanksgiving dinner.

More than 180 volunteers generously contributed more than 390 hours to bag produce, sort and pack food, and deliver boxed meals to families and seniors.

The Holiday Drive continued in December with the collection and distribution of toys and gift cards for hundreds of children and families in need. Results of the December giving will be posted at www.rockvillemd.gov/holidaydrive as soon as they are available.

The City of Rockville would like to thank all of the volunteers and donors who contributed time, food, toys, gift cards and money to this year's drive.

Learn how to contribute to this annual effort in the future by contacting the Community Services Division at 240-314-8310.

Rockville Seeks Environmentalists to Be Recognized During Earth Month

Deadline for Nominations for Environmental Excellence Awards is March 1

The Mayor and Council's Environmental Excellence Awards recognize individuals and organizations that contribute to Rockville's environmental health and sustainability.

Nominations are being accepted in the following categories through Tuesday, March 1 for awards to be presented during Earth Month in April:

- Outstanding Individual Environmental Stewardship.
- Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Practices.
- Outstanding Achievement in Green Building Technology/Design.
- Outstanding Environmental Education and Academic Achievement.

Eligible individuals must live, work, or study within the city. Eligible organizations must have an office in Rockville or must be able to demonstrate significant operations within the city limits. Building projects considered as part of a nomination must be within the city.

The awards are presented to an individual or organization by the Mayor and Council. Nominations and supplemental materials are received by the Environment Commission, which will review the materials and recommend awardees to the Mayor and Council.

For additional information about the award categories and guidelines, application forms and eligibility, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/environment/awards, email environment@rockvillemd.gov, or call 240-314-8870.

News You Can Use

Recycle the Holidays: Trees Make Great Mulch

Rockville offers a way to keep the holidays alive in your yard year-round. The city collects Christmas trees as part of its regular recycling collection. Trees are taken to the Montgomery County Recycling Center, where they become mulch. The mulch is available year-round and can be picked up, for free, at the center, at 16105 Frederick Road, next to the Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station.

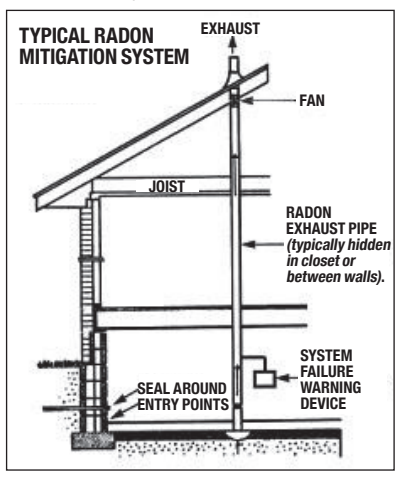
Residents should place cut trees at the curb for pickup on regular recycling days after removing all ornaments, wires, stands and decorations, including tinsel. Trees should not be bagged.

Artificial trees cannot be recycled and should be dismantled and placed in the gray refuse cart for regular weekly collection. Artificial trees that are too large to fit in the cart can be collected by appointment as one of six bulk collections allowed per year, or taken to the transfer station.

For more information on recycling and refuse service, holiday tree collection, or to make a bulk collection appointment, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse or call 240-314-8568. For more environmental tips throughout the year, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/environment.

City Provides Advice for Radon Testing

With radon testing in the news, the city's chief of inspection services recently reviewed steps taken by the city to address radon in homes.



The City of Rockville has mandated passive radon gas controls in the city code for many years, said Ray O'Brocki, the city's chief of inspection services.

"Most, if not all, homes in Rockville should be equipped with radon mitigation systems," O'Brocki said. To learn how a typical radon mitigation system works, see the image above.

Radon is an invisible, odorless, tasteless, radioactive gas. While no immediate symptoms will signal its presence, exposure at high levels can cause cancer.

Testing is the only way to know a home's radon levels. Several associations and government agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency and the surgeon general, recommend radon testing in homes. Some home improvement stores sell radon test kits, or homeowners may want to hire a radon measurement professional to test their home.

Learn more at www.epa.gov/radon or call the city's Inspection Services Division at 240-314-8240.

SNOW EMERGENCY: What It Means and What to Do to Help

Rockville Declared Two Snow Emergencies Last Winter

As winter sets in, community members are reminded that significant, deep snow could lead the city manager to declare a snow emergency. If a snow emergency is declared, the city will announce the status through local and social media and Alert Rockville, via the city's website and on Rockville 11 (cable channel 11).

Snow emergencies were declared last winter on Feb. 16 and March 4.

The snow emergency ordinance states:

- The city manager may invoke snow emergency parking restrictions.
- The city may remove or impound cars improperly parked.
- Residents with driveways must park all vehicles there.
- Residents without driveways, or who have more vehicles than will fit in the driveway, may park on the even-numbered side of the street only.
- In courts or cul-de-sacs, where house numbers are not even on one side of the street and odd on the other, parking is allowed only on the left side of the street when entering the cul-de-sac or court.
- No parking is allowed in the bulb of a cul-de-sac or court.
- A $100 fine may be incurred for a snow emergency parking violation.

Once a snow emergency is declared, pay attention to Rockville 11, the city's website, email notices, Facebook and Twitter for updates. Connect through social media and email updates at www.rockvillemd.gov/connections. Sign up to receive emergency notifications through Alert Rockville at www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts.

Be prepared for winter weather with shovels, salt or sand for sidewalks and driveways. Clear ice, snow and leaves from around fire hydrants and storm drains, and avoid shoveling snow into the street when possible. Following these tips will help the city return to normal operations as quickly as possible.

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL JOINED THE COMMUNITY IN A RALLY TO END GUN VIOLENCE. ***"Coming Together for Peace: A Rally to End Gun Violence," an effort initiated by Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton (top right), brought together elected officials from across Montgomery County on Dec. 20 at the Old Gray Courthouse in Town Center. It included music, candle lighting and speeches by victims' family members and law enforcement officials about lives lost to gun violence.***

INFO. AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Support Rockville Police As They Take the Plunge for Special Olympics

For the seventh year, a team from the Rockville City Police Department (RCPD) will take a dip in the chilly Chesapeake Bay to support Special Olympics Maryland as part of the 20th Annual Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge.

Members of the RCPD will participate in a special police plunge at noon on Friday, Jan. 29 at Sandy Point State Park, in Annapolis, one day before a plunge for the public on Saturday, Jan. 30.

To learn more about PlungeFest 2016, or to contribute to the Rockville officers' plunge team, visit www.plungemd.com, select "Sponsor a Plunger" and search for "Rockville City Police."

Reservations for Community Garden Plots Open Feb. 2

If you love to garden but have no place to grow your crops, reserve a community garden plot at Woottons Mill Park and enjoy the upcoming growing season alongside friends and neighbors.

The city has 178 plots available from April 1-Nov. 13 that measure 20 by 25 feet. Registration begins on Tuesday, Feb. 2.

The city provides plots with access to water spigots, while gardeners bring their own fencing, weed barrier, hoses, tools and other supplies.

Plots are $55 each for city residents and $80 for nonresidents.

The Rockville Civic Center Park business office oversees the garden plot program. For more information, contact Nanette Belice at 240-314-8660 or nbelice@rockvillemd.gov or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/gardenplots.

Be in the Know When it Snows!

ALERT Rockville

rockvillemd.gov/alerts

The Alert Rockville notification system relays up-to-the-minute messages to subscribers about snow emergencies, facility closures, public safety, severe weather and traffic.

Signing up is EASY!

1. Create a username and password.
2. Choose the types of alerts you want to receive.
3. Choose and prioritize your preferred method(s) of delivery – text, phone, email.
4. Enter your information - mobile phone number, home phone number, email.
5. Enter up to five locations.

To sign up, visit: **www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts**

Public Safety • Severe Weather • Traffic

THINGS TO DO IN ROCKVILLE

Science Center to Take Science Café to the U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention

Rockville Science Center opens 2016 with a special Science Café, celebrating an exciting new partnership with the United States Pharmacopeial Convention (USP).

Michael Ackerman, a bioengineer from the National Library of Medicine, will discuss the Visible Human Project from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 19, at the U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention Meeting Center, at 12601 Twinbrook Parkway.

Through the creation of public standards for medicine, food ingredients and dietary supplements, USP is striving to help improve public health. USP's Rockville location is its largest of eight locations around the world and has been part of the Rockville community for many decades. As a nonprofit organization driven by quality in support of public health, USP is committed to supporting scientific understanding and education in the region.

The Science Café's 2016 premiere follows a successful 2015 in which the Rockville Science Center moved closer to its goal of finding or building a permanent, regional science center in the area. The center engaged the community in a series of brainstorming sessions and advanced efforts on potential sites.

The nonprofit has hosted monthly Science Cafés since 2008. Science Cafés are open to everyone and feature an engaging, interactive conversation with an expert in a field of science on a particular topic of interest.

For more information on this month's speaker, or to RSVP, visit http://rockvillescience center.org/event/science-cafe.

City's Senior Needs Study Wants to Hear from Seniors in Survey

The city invites Rockville seniors to take a survey of senior needs to provide feedback on what's working and what could be improved regarding services for seniors.

The Mayor and Council funded the Senior Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis Study as a priority in the current budget. It is expected to be completed in March. Seniors can fill out a paper survey at the front desk at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, or take it online at www.rockvillemd.gov/seniorstudy. The survey will be open through January.

Rockville's senior population is growing and changing rapidly and is expected to increase faster than any other age group in Rockville. The city and other service providers face the challenge of maintaining existing services and developing and funding new programs and services to address the needs of a demographically diverse population.

The study seeks to determine if programs and services provided by the city and other government, private and nonprofit partners are expected to meet the needs of Rockville seniors.

To learn how you or your organization can be involved in the study, contact Terri Hilton, the city's senior services manager, at 240-314-8802 or thilton@rockvillemd.gov.

Connect with us on Social Media.

facebook.com/CityofRockville

@rockville411

www.rockvillemd.gov/youtube

Arts & Entertainment

City Invites Public to 'Yarn Bomb' Civic Center Park

Attend Free Workshops to Prepare Creations

Grab your knitting needles and crocheting hooks and get ready to "yarn bomb" a Rockville institution – the city's picturesque Civic Center Park.

Yarn bombing, which is the practice of covering objects in public places with colorful knitted or crocheted designs, has gained popularity worldwide as an expression of creative art. The city's Arts Division invites community members to participate in the yarn bombing.

"The aim is to cover tree trunks in the park to create a truly eye-catching spectacle," says Julie Farrell, arts program specialist. "Anyone who loves knitting or crocheting is welcome to join in and share their skills and enthusiasm."

People who have a passion for art and would like to have some fun are invited to come to free, friendly, relaxed knitting/crocheting workshops from 6-7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays starting Jan. 5 and continuing through February in the living room at Glenview Mansion, at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive.

Participants will yarn bomb the trees at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 27. Community members are invited to help wrap the trees even if they do not knit or crochet the creations.

For more information, contact Julie Farrell at jfarrell @rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8682.

Watercolors on Exhibit at Glenview Gallery

City Invites Students to Ready Artwork for Show

Glenview Mansion Art Gallery will welcome Baltimore Watercolor Society artists in January, and is gearing up for its annual Student Art Show later this winter.

"Taking Flight" by David Daniels.

The exhibition of various aqueous media by Baltimore Watercolor Society members will open with a free public reception and afternoon concert from 1:30-3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 10. Vocalist Barbara Martin, an audience favorite, will entertain, accompanied on piano by Robert Redd. The show runs through Friday, Jan. 29.

Students in grades K-12, who live in or attend school in Rockville, are invited to prepare one 2-D or 3-D art piece for display in the upcoming Student Art Show. Works from students in grades 4-12 will be judged for ribbons. Artwork can be dropped off at the mansion from 1:30-3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 28. The exhibition will open on Sunday, March 6.

Glenview Mansion Art Gallery is located in Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive. It is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. It is closed on weekends and holidays, including New Year's Day (Jan. 1) and Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 18). No tickets or reservations are required for the opening reception and concert or for visiting the gallery during normal hours.

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

'Tenor,' Jazz Music and Dance Come to Fitzgerald Theatre

Enjoy a madcap, screwball comedy, swing along to tunes from the Golden Era or experience progressive and traditional music and dance fused together at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre this winter.

Learn more about the following shows and buy tickets at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatretix or call the box office at 240-314-8690.

Rockville Little Theatre presents "Lend Me a Tenor"

Jan. 15, 16, 22, and 23 at 8 p.m. and Jan. 17 and 24 at 2 p.m.

Join us backstage at the opera where, due to a series of hilarious mishaps, the world's most famous tenor is unable to go on. You'll love this laugh-out-loud chain reaction of mistaken identity, farcical plot twists, double entendre and musical mayhem.

Tickets: $22 adult; $20 senior and student.

Rockville Concert Band presents its Annual Jazz Concert

Feb. 7 at 3 p.m.

Rockville Swing Band will be the guest ensemble for this concert. This exciting mix of musical talent will perform contemporary jazz, big band arrangements and traditional swing from the Golden Era.

Free. No tickets required; $5 suggested donation.

Duquesne University Tamburitzans present "New Horizons"

Feb. 14 at 2 p.m.

Reflecting the traditions and influences of more than 100 nationalities and cultures, the Tamburitzans create a visually stunning and electric performance combining dance and music.

Tickets: $35-$38.

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre is located in Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive.

MLK Day Celebration

continued from pg. 1…

of The Truth Telling Project in St. Louis and an assistant professor of peace and conflict studies at Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pa. The Truth Telling Project is focused on developing a truth and reconciliation process to address structural violence and racism in Ferguson and beyond.

The celebration also includes the presentation of two awards. The Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Award is presented to a student at a Rockville high school who has worked to fulfill King's dream. The F. Michael Taff Award is presented to an individual, organization or business that has helped improve the quality of life for people with disabilities.

Soul in Motion and Vision Contemporary Dance Ensemble.

For more information, including video from the 2015 celebration, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk or contact Janet Kelly at 240-314-8316 or jkelly@rockville md.gov. For information about access, call the city's Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator at 240-314-8108.

January Calendar

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

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. Note: Registration is required, register 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 offers a variety of classes and programs each season. Find the Winter Rec. and Summer Camp guides at www.rockvillemd.gov/guide.

1 New Year's Day City Hall and all city facilities are closed. *See article on page 1.*

2 Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm and Twinbrook community centers open 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

4,11,18,25 Mommy and Me Emphasizes play between caregiver and child using age-appropriate equipment in the gym. Center pass or daily membership required for caregivers. Age 4 and younger free. 10 a.m.-noon. Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway.

6 Coat Drive's Last Day Drop off a new or gently used coat of any size in one of six locations from Dec. 28-Jan. 6. *See ad on page 8.*

7,8 Rockville Senior Center Winter Trips Registration Register in person at 10:15 a.m. on Jan. 7 for center members and city residents, and on Jan. 8 for nonmembers and nonresidents. Individuals may register for themselves and one other person. Trips include: Maryland Live! casino, Smithsonian Museum of American History, Anderson House in Washington, D.C. and The Oak Ridge Boys at The Barns at Wolf Trap. Find details on page 52 of the Winter Recreation Guide. SR

10 Glenview Gallery Art Gallery Opening Reception and Sunday Afternoon Concert FREE 1:30-3:30 p.m. *See article on page 6.* GM

11 Twinbrook Teen Scene Begins A safe, supervised daily after-school program offering a wide variety of activities of teens' choosing and study time. Grades 5-8. Find details on page 20 of the Winter Recreation Guide. 3-6:30 p.m. Twinbrook Community Recreation Center.

12,14 Watercolor Classes Beginner and continuing classes focus on basic techniques such as washes, wet-in-wet, dry brush and color mixing, and include studio time. 1-3 p.m. on Tuesdays, Jan. 12-Feb. 12 or Thursdays, Jan. 14-Feb. 25. SR

15-17,22-24 "Lend Me a Tenor" Presented by Rockville Little Theatre *See article on page 6.* FSF

18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day City Hall and some city facilities will be closed. *See article on page 1.*

18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration 10 a.m. Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive. *See article on page 1.*

19 Summer Camp Registration Opens *See article on page 2.*

19 Rockville Science Center Science Café 6:30-8 p.m. U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention, 12601 Twinbrook Parkway. *See article on page 6.*

20 FunDrum Circle Join a supercharged drum circle led by Jonathan Murray of FunDrum Rhythm Circles. No experience necessary. 1-2:15 p.m. SR

22 Pajama Jam Movie Night Presents "Inside Out" Watch the family-friendly movie on a gigantic inflatable screen. 7:30-9 p.m. Twinbrook Community Recreation Center.

23 Board of Supervisors of Elections Post-Election Forum 10 a.m.-noon. CH

23 Critters Up Close A new program taking a closer look at animals that live at Croydon Creek Nature Center. Each program features a different live creature and includes a live animal interpretation and craft. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 2-6. 10-10:45 a.m. CC

25 Growing Up WILD Teacher Workshop For early childhood educators. This fun-filled, practical workshop is packed with hands-on, experiential nature activities for your classroom. Each participant receives a free "Growing Up WILD: Exploring Nature With Young Children" curriculum guide correlated with NAEYC standards. Advance registration required. $15 fee. CEUs awarded. 9 a.m.-noon. CC

27 Bikeway Master Plan Public Hearing Public hearing during Planning Commission meeting at 7 p.m. Televised on Rockville 11 (cable channel 11). *See article on page 4.*

28 Nature Tots: Winter Wonders A naturalist helps children ages 2-5 explore nature through play, crafts, stories and hikes. Adult participation required. Preregistration recommended. 10-11:30 a.m. CC

28 Senior Center Member Meet and Greet Orientation A short presentation on Senior Center member benefits and happenings. Meet Senior Club representatives and take a tour. 1 p.m. SR

31 Wedding Expo Noon-4 p.m. *See ad on page 2.* GM

Boards and Commissions

Meetings are held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., unless otherwise noted. Please check the city website for the latest on cancellations, rescheduling and contact information at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions.

6 Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee 7 p.m.

9 Environment Commission 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Strategic retreat to develop the 2016 work plan.

9 Board of Appeals 9 a.m. Televised on Rockville 11.

12 Human Services Advisory Commission 6:30 p.m.

13,27 Planning Commission 7 p.m. Televised on Rockville 11.

13 Cultural Arts Commission 7 p.m.

19 Rockville Seniors Inc. 1 p.m. Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive.

21 Senior Citizens Commission 1 p.m. Rockville Senior Center.

21 Historic District Commission 7:30 p.m. Televised on Rockville 11.

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

27 Rockville Housing Enterprises Board of Commissioners 6:30 p.m. 621-A Southlawn Lane.

27 Human Rights Commission 7:30 p.m.

For the most up-to-date event listings visit www.rockvillemd.gov/thisweek and sign up for the weekly email newsletter.

28 Recreation and Park Advisory Board 7 p.m.

Vacancies

The city is seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Animal Matters Board (1 regular; 2 alternates).
- Board of Appeals (2).
- Board of Supervisors of Elections (1).
- Compensation Comm. (1).
- Environment Commission (1).
- Financial Advisory Board (1).
- Historic District Commission (2 regular; 1 alternate).
- Human Rights Comm. (1).
- Human Services Advisory Commission (1).
- Landlord Tenant Affairs Comm. (1 regular; 1 alternate).
- Planning Commission (1).
- Recreation and Park Advisory Board (1).
- Rockville Housing Enterprises (1).
- Rockville Seniors, Inc. (1).
- Senior Citizens Comm. (3).
- Traffic and Transportation Commission (1).

For more, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions or call the City Clerk's Office at 240-314-8280.

Twinbrook Teen Scene

Register now for a safe, supervised after-school program that promotes positive youth development.

- Wide variety of activities of the teens' choosing
- Study time

Grades 5-8

Twinbrook Comm. Rec. Ctr., 12920 Twinbrook Parkway (transportation from select schools available).

See page 20 of the Winter Rec Guide at www.rockvillemd.gov/guide.

City of Rockville Get Into It

Twinbrook Community Recreation Center
www.rockvillemd.gov/twinbrook
240-314-8830

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

El presupuesto, cierres por las fiestas y la temporada de nieve

Lo siguiente es un resumen de las historias más importantes en esta edición de "Rockville Reports":

El trabajo del presupuesto comienza

El Alcalde y el Consejo sostendrán su primera discusión de las prioridades del Año Fiscal 2017 de Rockville el lunes11 de enero. La sesión de trabajo será parte de su junta regular, y dará inicio a las 6 p.m., una hora antes de lo usual, en la Alcaldía; 111 Maryland Ave. Para mayor información, visite la página Web www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter.

En Diciembre se enviaron dos reportes al Alcalde y al Consejo que muestran, más de cerca, la salud económica de Rockville durante el año fiscal más reciente. El Reporte Popular Financiero Anual (PAFR por sus siglas en inglés) resume las finanzas de la ciudad y suplementa el Reporte Financiero Comprensivo Anual (CAFR por sus siglas en ingles). Los dos reportes están disponibles en www.rockvillemd.gov/financialreports.

Las instalaciones de Rockville estarán cerradas en Año Nuevo y el Día de MLK

Todas las instalaciones estarán cerradas por Año Nuevo, viernes 1 de enero. El Ayuntamiento y algunas instalaciones también estarán cerradas por el día de Martin Luther King Jr., el lunes 18 de enero. El reciclaje y la recolección de basura no se verán afectadas por el día festivo del Año Nuevo, pero durante la semana del día de Martin Luther King Jr se realizarán un día después del día programado regular. Para mayor información sobre las recolecciones, llame al 240-314-8568 o visite www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse. Para mayor información sobre las horas de operación de las instalaciones, llame al 240-314-5000 o visite www.rockvillemd.gov.

Para saber más acerca de la celebración anual de la ciudad por el día de Martin Luther King Jr. visite la página www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk.

Emergencia de nieve: Qué quiere decir

Una Nevada fuerte puede llevar a que el gerente de la ciudad declare una emergencia de nieve e invoque restricciones de estacionamiento especiales para poder facilitar la remoción de la nieve. En caso de nevada, visite www.rockvillemd.gov y busque la ciudad en Facebook (City of Rockville, City Hall) y en Twitter (@rockville411) para obtener detalles.

Para mayor información en español, visite www.rockvillemd.gov y haga referencia al casillero de "Select Language" en la esquina inferior derecha de la página.

Neighborhood Notes

IN BRIEF

Historic Properties Tax Credits Available

County, state and federal tax credits are available for qualified Rockville properties, such as those in designated historic districts or listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Montgomery County Credits

The city participates in the county's preservation tax credit program to assist owners of historic properties with their exterior maintenance expenses. Structural repairs and pruning of trees away from a historic structure may also be included.

Ordinary maintenance, defined as work undertaken to repair existing building elements with the same materials and design, does not require prior HDC approval. All other exterior work must have prior HDC approval to be eligible. The HDC reviews tax credit applications and makes a recommendation to the county to approve or disallow the proposed tax credit.

If approved, your property tax obligation for 2016 will be reduced by 25 percent of the approved expenditures. Applications for the county credits are due by Friday, April 1.

State of Maryland Credits

Certain residential and commercial properties may qualify for tax credits on interior and exterior work, with 20 percent of eligible expenditures refunded from Maryland state income taxes.

Federal Credits

Owners of income-producing properties listed on the National Register or located in a National Register District may be eligible for a 20 percent federal tax credit.

To learn more, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/historic or contact the city's historic preservation planner, Sheila Bashiri, at 240-314-8236 or sbashiri@rockvillemd.gov.

Donate to our COAT DRIVE

DEC. 28 THROUGH JAN. 6

Lincoln Park Community Center has teamed up with Burlington Coat Factory for their 9th Annual One Warm Coat Drive. Drop off coats (any size new or gently used) from Monday, Dec. 28-Wednesday, Jan. 6.

240-314-8780

www.rockvillemd.gov/lpcc

Burlington coat factory

Drop Off Locations

Lincoln Park Community Center
357 Frederick Ave.

Rockville City Hall
111 Maryland Ave.

Rockville Police Station
2 W. Montgomery Ave.

Rockville Swim and Fitness Center
355 Martin's Ln.

Thomas Farm Community Center
700 Fallsgrove Dr.

Twinbrook Community Rec. Center
12920 Twinbrook Pkwy.

If your company or organization would like to support the coat drive either with donated coats or a financial contribution, contact Yvette Yeboah, LPCC supervisor, at lpcc@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8783.

Revamped Rockville Leadership Program to Return This Spring

Rockville will offer a new way to get to know the city this spring with a revamped leadership program that gives community members the opportunity to learn from city staff leaders who oversee Rockville's daily operations.

The six-session program will include four sessions from 7-9 p.m. on Thursday nights (April 7, 21, 28 and May 5) and two sessions from 9 a.m.-noon on Saturdays (April 16 and 23). Some dates may be subject to change. Spaces are limited. Participants must be 16 or older and live or work in Rockville.

Topics will include:

- Rockville's form of government, including a mock Mayor and Council session.
- The City Manager's Office and what it takes to run a city.
- Public works, including a tour of the city's water treatment plant.
- Planning, including the master plan process.
- Police and code enforcement, including neighborhood watch.
- Recreation and Parks, including a tour of city facilities and a look at programs and services for youth and seniors.
- Leadership training, including how to build a neighborhood network, how to manage conflict and how to be an effective community leader.

The highly interactive program seeks to empower any community member to use their talents to lead and serve their communities and the City of Rockville.

For more information, contact Hjarman Cordero at hcordero@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8344. Program locations and updates will be posted at www.rockvillemd.gov/neighborhoods as information becomes available.

Celebrate Lunar New Year on Feb. 13

Rockville's Celebration Features Performances, Exhibits and Food at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre

Celebrate Rockville's Asian cultures with performances, exhibits and food, as the city's Lunar New Year celebration returns to the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre on Saturday, Feb. 13, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The free celebration, at the theater at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, will offer a chance to experience Rockville's diverse community through multigenerational performances, exhibits featuring traditional arts and crafts, demonstrations and samples of Asian cuisine.

Organized by Rockville's Asian Pacific American Task Force, the celebration will mark the beginning of the year 4714, the "Year of the Monkey," on the Chinese Zodiac calendar. One in three Rockville residents were born outside the United States and 54 percent of the city's foreign-born population was born in Asia, according to the city's planning department.

For more information, contact task force liaison Janet Kelly at 240-314-8316 or jkelly@rockvillemd.gov, or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear. For information about access, call the city's Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator at 240-314-8108.

Top: Demolition of pool wall sections took place in August. Middle: Workers replaced the pool's major drain system in November. Bottom: A site overview in late November. Right: HVAC ducts were installed in November.

Swim Center's South Pool Project Nears Completion

A major improvement project to replace the pool deck and the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system in the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center's indoor South Pool is expected to be completed in early January.

When it reopens, the South Pool will once again be home to a variety of activities, including lap swim, water exercise classes, swim team practices and learn-to-swim classes for youth and adults. The approximately $2.4 million project is the first major renovation to the South Pool since it was built in 1968.

The Mayor and Council will attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 13.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/rsfcrenovations to learn more about the project and view photos from throughout the renovation. For more information, email swimcenter@rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8750.

Get Into It

Mayor
BRIDGET DONNELL NEWTON
Councilmembers
BERYL L. FEINBERG
VIRGINIA D. ONLEY
JULIE PALAKOVICH CARR
MARK PIERZCHALA

City Manager: Barbara B. Matthews
Deputy City Manager: Jennifer Kimball
Director of Communication: Marylou Berg
Public Information Specialists: Noelle Barton, Sean Sedam
Graphics & Printing Div.: Sylvia England, Eric Ferrell, Nikita Jones, Leon Porter, Betsy Robbins, Lori Russler

Rockville Reports is the official publication of the Mayor and Council, published at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850-2364. It is delivered to all residents of Rockville. Phone 240-314-8105.
Any individuals with disabilities who would like to receive the information in this publication in another form may contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at 240-314-8100; TTY 240-314-8137.