Rockville Reports

APRIL 2016 • VOL. 62 #4

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

FIND LOTS OF WAYS TO CELEBRATE EARTH MONTH, ON PAGE 2.

Crime Continues Downward Trend in Rockville

'Part I' Crimes Down 32 Percent Over a Decade

The Rockville City Police Department reported a 4.2 percent overall decrease in crime in 2015, continuing an 11-year period in which Rockville has seen significant crime reduction.

Each year, the department prepares a comparative uniform crime report based on the FBI's reporting program. Data is coded as Part I or Part II offenses. Part I crimes are crimes against persons (murder, rape, robbery, assault) and crimes against property (burglary, larceny, theft and arson). Part II crimes include simple assault, curfew offenses, loitering, embezzlement, forgery and counterfeiting, disorderly conduct, driving under the influence, drug and alcohol offenses, fraud, gambling, vandalism, and weapons offenses.

Part I offenses decreased by 32 percent between 2005 and 2015.

From 2014 to 2015, reports of Part I offenses decreased by 2 percent, while Part II crimes decreased by 6.1 percent. Rockville saw decreases in robberies, burglaries and auto thefts.

Part I crimes – crimes against persons and property - decreased by 2 percent between 2014-2015, part of an 11-year downward trend.

Despite the overall decrease, the number of reported rapes in the city increased from 10 to 23. In all but two of the incidents, the offender was known to the victim.

There were two homicides. One involved domestic child abuse. The other was the result of an attack by a former boyfriend.

Read the full report and learn more about the department at **www.rockvillemd.gov/police**.

Mayor and Council Name Acting City Manager

Nationwide Search for a New City Manager to Begin

Craig L. Simoneau was appointed Rockville's acting city manager in February.

He succeeds Barbara B. Matthews, who served as city manager since October 2012. The Mayor and Council will conduct a national search for a new city manager.

Simoneau had served as Rockville's public works director since September 2005. As the publics works director he oversaw the city's move to a new refuse and single-stream recycling program; implementation of sustainable water and sewer rehabilitation programs; and recovery from the 2010 "snowmageddon" storm, the 2012 derecho, and this year's blizzard.

Before coming to Rockville, he spent over 22 years as a career Army officer in various leadership positions. He supervised a broad range of functions, including public works, contracting, finance, legal, information technology, human resources, equal employment, internal review and emergency operations.

Craig L. Simoneau, acting city manager.

Immediately before arriving in Rockville, he served as the public works director at Fort Monroe, Va., where he led an organization of 117 employees responsible for constructing, operating and maintaining all base facilities. Simoneau also was responsible for executing a $103 million repair and reconstruction program to effectively recover from Hurricane Isabel damage.

Simoneau is a licensed professional engineer. He is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and has a master's degree in civil engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Rockville's MFD Program Expands its Outreach

Procurement Division Continues Work to Build Relationships with Vendors

Rockville continues to establish a strong program for outreach to the minority-, female- and disabled-owned (MFD) business community with a presence at business events, information gathering about MFD vendors and the first technical assistance meeting with an MFD business.

As part of the MFD program, which the Mayor and Council created last year, members of the city's Procurement Division (formerly known as the Purchasing Division) are available to meet one-on-one with vendors to provide assistance and education in navigating the city's bidding process. The division conducted its first technical assistance meeting with a woman-owned business after the business owner learned of the initiative through a "Rockville Reports" article. To request a technical assistance meeting, call 240-314-8434.

Procurement Division staff attended seven business events between Jan. 1 and mid-March and plans to attend at least five more by the end of the fiscal year on June 30. Staff attended two Rockville Chamber of Commerce networking events and attended the U.S. Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce (USPAACC) Business Connections & Networking meeting in January.

Staff also met with the Minority Business Economic Council to explore best prac-

continued on pg. 8…

Work Continues to Improve ADA Access in City Facilities

June Completion for Access Audits and Some Projects

The city is making progress on an audit of its facilities for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and is developing a transition plan for completing projects identified by the audit. The remaining access audit of all city parks and facilities should be completed by June 30.

The Mayor and Council heard a presentation on Feb. 22 of the ADA audit and transition plan by Recreation Accessibility Consultants, LLC. The study audited current conditions in city parks and facilities and provided a plan to improve accessibility for all. Find video of the presentation at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter by selecting the

continued on pg. 4…

ROCKVILLE 2040

Help Plan Rockville's Future

CITYWIDE FORUMS

- April 19
- May 24
- May 10
- June 14

6:30 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St.

Participants are encouraged to attend all meetings – each will build on the one before. **For more information and to register, email: masterplan@rockvillemd.gov**

FREE LIGHT DINNER • FREE PARKING (GARAGES A, B & C) WITH VALIDATION

• ENVIRONMENT • COMMUNITY FACILITIES • TRANSPORTATION • HOUSING • LAND USE • HISTORIC RESOURCES • MUNICIPAL GROWTH • WATER RESOURCES • ECONOMY •

City of Rockville Get Into It

WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/ROCKVILLE2040

Get Into It…

PAGE 2 **Down to Earth** *Find free Earth Month events and tips to make every day Earth Day.*

PAGE 3 **Budget Watch** *Get details on the proposed Fiscal Year 2017 budget.*

PAGE 5 **Traffic Safety Month** *Find safety tips for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians.*

PAGE 6 **Summer - Ready** *Spring swim lessons can prepare your family for summer pool time.*

MAYOR & COUNCIL
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IN BRIEF

Professors, Public Works Staff to Explore the Transformation of Watts Branch

Peerless Rockville Presents 'Lessons From Leopold'

Geomorphologist and hydrologist Luna Leopold's groundbreaking 30-year study of the Watts Branch watershed in Rockville observed the long-term effects of the development of modern suburbs that transformed the environment. This Earth Month, Peerless Rockville invites the public to learn about these historical changes and modern environmental management.

Andy Miller, a professor of geography and environmental systems at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and Karen Prestegaard, a professor of geology at the University of Maryland, College Park, will join staff from Rockville's Department of Public Works for an illustrated exploration of the environmental history and modern environmental management of the Watts Branch watershed, from 2:30–4 p.m. on Saturday, April 16 at the Rockville Senior Center, Arts and Crafts Room, 1150 Carnation Drive.

The free presentation will examine how Leopold documented the watershed's transformation from farmland to suburbs. It will also look at how lessons from Leopold continue to inform today's environmental policies and can help modern suburban community members understand how to better protect their local environment.

Peerless Rockville is a nonprofit that works in partnership with the City of Rockville to preserve buildings, objects and information important to Rockville's heritage. To learn more, visit **www.peerlessrockville.org** or call 301-762-0096.

Community Garden Plot Registration Open

Reserve a community garden plot at Woottons Mill Park and enjoy the upcoming growing season alongside friends and neighbors.

Rockville has 178 plots, measuring 20 by 25 feet, available from April 1-Nov. 13. Plots have access to water spigots. Gardeners bring their own fencing, weed barrier, hoses, tools and other supplies. Plots are $55 each for city residents and $80 for nonresidents.

For more information, contact Nanette Belice at 240-314-8660 or **nbelice@rockvillemd.gov** or visit **www.rockvillemd.gov/gardenplots**.

April Is Earth Month

Rockville celebrates the 46th Earth Day, on Friday, April 22.

The city strives to be an environmentally sustainable community that preserves its green spaces and continually reevaluates ways to reduce its environmental footprint. For more details, check out tips for helping the environment year-round and learn how to bring an environmental speaker to your next community meeting at **www.rockvillemd.gov/earthmonth**. Learn how to get involved and live greener and healthier at **www.rockvillemd.gov/environment**. *Mark your calendar for theses events:*

April 5

3RD ANNUAL MONTGOMERY COUNTY ENERGY SUMMIT

8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Silver Spring Civic Center, 1 Veterans Place, Silver Spring. Learn more at **http://www.usgbc.org/event/3rd-annual-montgomery-county-energy-summit**.

REUSE
REDUCE
RECYCLE

City staff will greet volunteers. Gloves and bags will be provided. SSL hours are available. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes. To register, email **environment@rockvillemd.gov** or call 240-314-8877.

April 30

SPRING FESTIVAL WITH NATIVE PLANT SALE

10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road.

Learn more on calendar, pg. 7.

April 16

28TH ANNUAL POTOMAC RIVER WATERSHED CLEANUP

Stream cleanup sites include:

- ***Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road, from 9 a.m.-noon.***
- ***Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway, from 9-11 a.m.***
- ***Maryvale Park, 812 First St., from 10 a.m.-noon.***

April 22

EARTH DAY/ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING CEREMONY

2 p.m. at Beall Elementary, 451 Beall Ave. All are welcome to attend. Rockville will be recognized as a "Tree City USA" for the 27th consecutive year. The city will host a tree planting ceremony and will work with student volunteers on stream buffer planting and cleanup. City Forestry Division staff will visit first-grade classes in Rockville schools in late April to discuss Arbor Day and the many benefits of trees, and will present a tree seedling to all first graders.

April 9

GREEN YOUR BACKYARD INFORMATION SESSION

1-2:30 p.m. at Twinbrook Community Recreation Ctr., 12920 Twinbrook Parkway. Learn about RainScapes Rewards and other programs designed to help you green your backyard and reduce pollution in this free information session. To register, call 240-314-8877 or email **rainscapes@rockvillemd.gov** with name, phone number and address.

April 30

PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Rockville City Police Station, 2 W. Montgomery Ave. Drive up and drop off unused or expired medications in the station's parking lot. Drugs will be safely disposed of, keeping them out of our environment. For more information, call Cpl. Ken Matney at 240-314-8922.

April 17 INVASIVE PLANT PULL

1:30-4:30 p.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road. Work with a regional expert to pull invasive plants. Gloves will be provided. No advanced registration necessary. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Call 240-314-8770 for details.

April 24

SCIENCE DAY

noon-5 p.m. at Montgomery College-Rockville, 51 Mannakee St. Learn why science is our future. Be sure to visit the Croydon Creek Nature Center table. Free. Find more information at **www.rockvillesciencecenter.org** and in the article on page 4.

Make Every Day Earth Day: *Green Tips for Your Wallet, Home and Community*

GREEN YOUR BACKYARD

- Prevent mosquitoes: Remove or turn over buckets, kiddie pools, garbage cans, flower pots, old tires and other containers, and check downspouts so there is no standing water where mosquitoes can breed.
- Rockville's RainScapes Rewards program (**www.rockvillemd.gov/rainscapes**) provides rebates for rain barrels, the removal of pavement or turf, and landscaping with native trees, shrubs and plants.
- Create a certified wildlife habitat on your property that includes food, water, cover and a place for wildlife to raise young. Help Rockville to become a Community Wildlife Habitat (**www.rockvillemd.gov/wildlifehabitat**) by seeking certification with the National Wildlife Federation.

PREVENT POLLUTION AND WASTE

- Recycle more and trash less. Rockville's recycling and refuse program (**www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse**) provides comprehensive collection services for single-family homes and most townhouses, including single-stream recycling, weekly yard waste collection and seasonal leaf vacuuming in April. (Find the article on page 8.)
- Prevent clogged pipes and sewer backups by scraping pots, pans and plates. Dispose of fats, oils, grease and food scraps in the trash can.
- Pick up after your pet by bagging pet waste and disposing of it in the trash – never down a storm drain where it pollutes waterways.
- Report water pollution by calling the 24-hour spill hotline at 240-314-8348.

USE ENERGY AND WATER WISELY

- Reduce transportation fuel consumption and carbon dioxide emissions by walking, biking (**www.rockvillemd.gov/bicycling**) or using transit (**www.rockvillemd.gov/transit**).
- Reduce vehicle idling to save money and energy, and to keep the air clean. Maryland's anti-idling law prohibits idling for more than five minutes.
- Make your home more energy and water efficient. Turn off lights, unplug electronics when not in use and save money with utility incentives on light bulbs, energy audits, programmable thermostats and other efficiency improvements.
- The TapIt program (**www.rockvillemd.gov/tapit**) allows you to fill up a reusable water bottle for free with free access to drinking water at a network of cafés and restaurants around the Washington metropolitan area.

HEALTHY LIVING

- Grow food at home or in a community garden. Make friends, get exercise and reap the benefits of fresh vegetables with the city's community garden plot program. Find the article on this page.
- Purchase local, fresh food from the Rockville Farmers Market (**www.rockvillemd.gov/farmers**). Beginning on May 14, find farm-fresh fruits and vegetables, bedding plants, cut flowers, herbs, baked goods, and more.
- Volunteer. Opportunities are available at **www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer** to clean up streams, remove invasive plants, mark storms drain, or serve on the city's Environment Commission or one of its four committees.

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

Meetings are 7 p.m. at City Hall and subject to change.

- **April 4** (Monday)
- **April 11** (Monday)
- **April 18** (Monday)
- **April 25** (Monday)

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 **April 11,** Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg will join Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton. *No appointment necessary. Call the City Clerk's Office at 240-314-8280.*

Budget Watch: Fiscal Year 2017

Rockville's Mayor and Council continue budget deliberations with a series of public hearings and work sessions focused on crafting a Fiscal Year 2017 budget that funds the city's priorities.

On March 14, Acting City Manager Craig L. Simoneau presented the Mayor and Council with a FY17 budget proposal. Find the proposed budget at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.

"The proposed budget funds many of the Mayor and Council's priorities while supporting infrastructure and facility improvements, employee compensation and benefits, and new or expanded city programs and initiatives," Simoneau wrote in a letter presenting the proposal.

The budget, which covers the fiscal year that begins July 1, is scheduled to be adopted by the Mayor and Council in May.

The proposed FY17 operating budget of $126.1 million is an increase of 2.2 percent over last year's total operating budget. The general fund budget, which supports the largest portion of the operating budget, is $76.5 million, a 2.6 percent increase.

The city's current real property tax rate of $0.292 per $100 of assessed valuation is proposed to remain the same for FY17. All residential and commercial property owners pay this tax.

Property tax, the city's largest single source of general fund revenue, is estimated to increase by 3.4 percent from FY 2016, to $39.6 million, mainly due to the most recent round of property assessments. Income tax, the city's second largest single source of general fund revenue, is estimated to decrease by 3.2 percent, to $12 million. This decrease is due to a recent Supreme Court decision and to the state's prior misallocation of the city's income tax revenues.

The proposal includes one less full-time position than in FY16; a 1 percent cost-of-living adjustment and a performance-based merit or step increase for all eligible employees; and increases for the cost of health care benefits. The city's pension costs will decrease by $100,000, to $3.5 million across all funds in FY17.

The proposed FY17 Capital Improvements Program (CIP), the five-year plan for funding new construction and infrastructure maintenance, includes $22.1 million in new funding, combined with a carryover of $49.4 million to support 47 projects during the fiscal year. The proposed budget includes funding for:

- Repairing and stabilizing the King Farm Farmstead dairy barns.
- Improvements to make parking at Glenview Mansion comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- One-time maintenance, repairs, and equipment purchases and the design of locker room renovations at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center.
- Rehabilitation of the Rockville Skate Park.
- Upgrades to the traffic signal at East Jefferson Street and Rollins Avenue.
- Road and sidewalk repair and replacement.

The five-year plan includes a $1.1 million taxpayer-supported debt issue in FY17 for parking improvements at Glenview Mansion, a $3.6 million issue in FY 2018 for expansion and renovation of the Swim and Fitness Center locker rooms, and a $1.8 million issue in FY 2019 for repairs to the Hurley Avenue bridge. Other debt issues are planned to support the water, sewer, stormwater management and refuse funds.

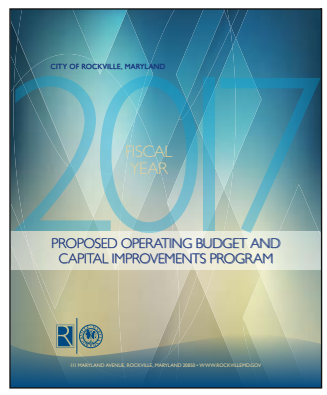
Rockville operates six enterprise funds. They function like a private business, with costs fully recovered through user charges. The enterprise funds are the water fund, the sewer fund, the refuse fund, the stormwater management fund, the parking fund and the RedGate Golf Course fund.

Average residential bills, for recycling and refuse service, water, sewer and stormwater management, will increase under plans previously approved by the Mayor and Council. Based on the FY17 rates, average annual residential expenses for city utilities and property taxes for a family of four will increase by $169.30, or 5 percent.

STAY INVOLVED:

Provide comment to the Mayor and Council on the proposed FY 2017 budget:

- In person at a public hearing. *(See schedule.)*
- In writing to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- In an email to **mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov**.



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE:

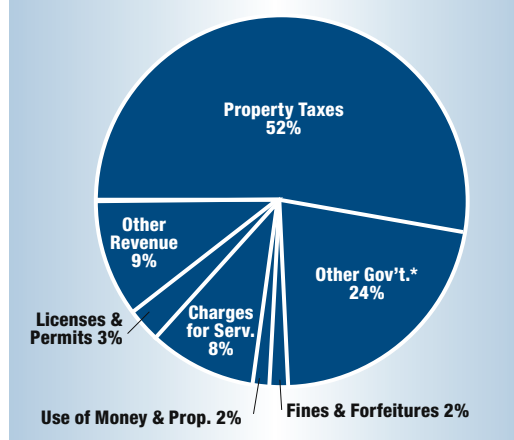
- **Monday, April 4:** Public hearing and work session.
- **Monday, April 18:** Public hearing.
- **Monday, April 25:** Public record closes.
- **Monday, May 2:** Work session.
- **Monday, May 16:** Budget adoption.

IN BRIEF

Recycling and Refuse Bills

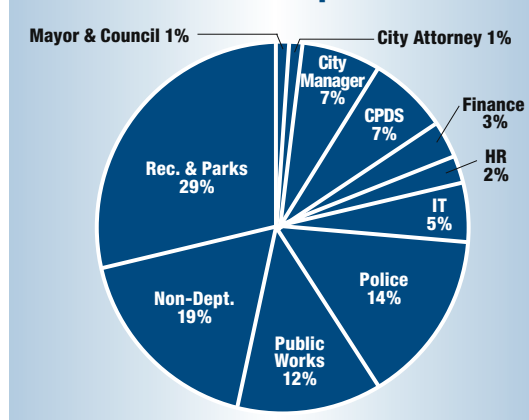
As part of their Fiscal Year 2017 budget discussions, the Mayor and Council are considering a proposal that would place the city's fee for recycling and refuse collection on the Montgomery County real property tax bills. *Learn more in the article on page 5.*

Proposed FY17 General Fund Revenues

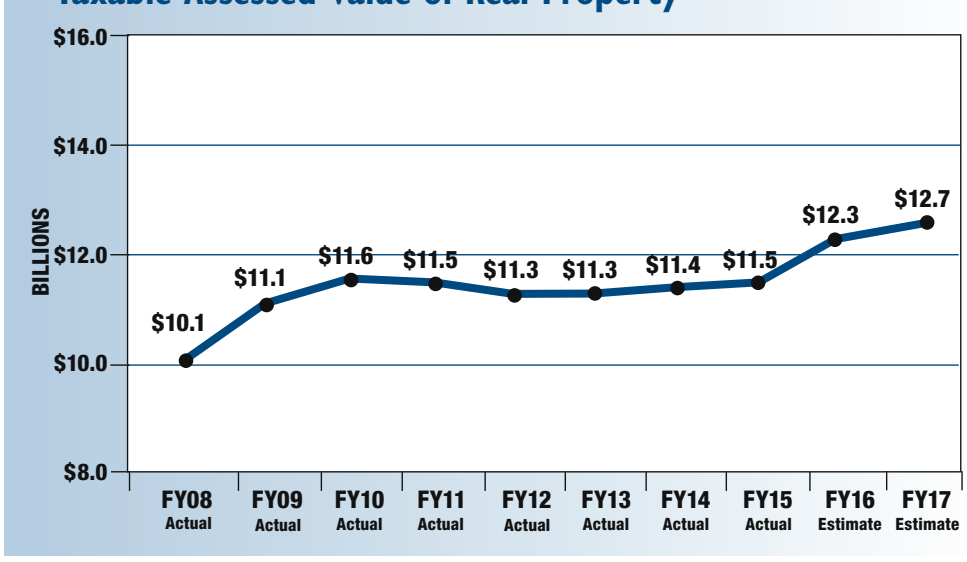


**Includes income taxes (16%).*

Proposed FY17 General Fund Expenditures



Taxable Assessed Value of Real Property



Proposed Rockville Utility Rates

Based on the FY17 rates, average annual residential expenses for city utilities for a family of four would increase by $112.30 for the year, an increase of 8 percent over the current average.

	ADOPTED	PROPOSED
Refuse Rate	**FY 2016**	**FY 2017**
6% increase	$400 per year	$424 per year
Sewer Rate*	**FY 2016**	**FY 2017**
12.8% increase	$525.48 per year	$592.84 per year
Stormwater Management Rate	**FY 2016**	**FY 2017**
5% increase	$121.60 per year	$127.70 per year
Water Rate*	**FY 2016**	**FY 2017**
4.1% increase	$365.92 per year	$380.76 per year

** The city's water and sewer rates are tiered based on meter size. For more on water and sewer rates, see page 400 of the proposed budget. Find the proposed budget at* **www.rockvillemd.gov/budget** *or review a hard copy at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.*

Neighborhood Notes

IN AND AROUND ROCKVILLE

Lincoln Park Community Center's Yard Sale Returns to Richard Montgomery H.S.

Hunt for bargains, discover treasures or sign up to sell your wares as a vendor at Lincoln Park Community Center's outdoor community yard sale from 8 a.m.-noon on Saturday, April 16 in the parking lot of Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive.

The annual sale is a great way to do some spring cleaning and make some cash. Vendors must preregister with payment to secure a space, which includes one parking spot and one 6-foot by 3-foot table. Only one table is permitted per spot. Setup time is 7-8 a.m.

Register online at **rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov**. Register for course #55089 for a city-provided table ($30). For an additional table ($30), register for course #55090. Or, to bring your own table, register for course #55109 and pay just $20. Only one table permitted per spot. Tables cannot exceed 6 feet by 3 feet. No food or weapons can be sold.

In case of rain, the sale will be held on Sunday, April 17.

A-RTS Festival Returns to Town Square in May

The Fourth Annual A-RTS at Rockville Town Square Arts Festival returns next month for two days of art, food and live music.

The free festival will transform the streets surrounding Town Square Plaza into an outdoor art gallery, featuring more than 160 nationally recognized artists from across the country working in ceramics, digital art, drawing, fiber, glass, graphics, metalwork, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, wood and mixed media. Wearable arts – from fashion to jewelry – will be among the pieces for sale and make the perfect Mother's Day or graduation gift.

The festival will be held rain or shine from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, May 7 and from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday, May 8.

Live music will take to the Dawson's Market Stage at noon each day. Artisanal food vendors will be on Gibbs Street behind the stage offering crab cakes, crepes, gourmet chocolates and more. New this year will be tastings by Maryland wineries and craft brewers, served in commemorative glasses.

Parking will be available in the Town Square garages.

For more information, including a list of artists, performers and food vendors, visit **http://a-rts.org/** or find the festival on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RockvilleArtsFestival.

ADA Continues in City Facilities

continued from pg. 1…

television icon next to the Feb. 22 meeting listing.

In response to the audit and transition plan, ADA projects that are scheduled to be completed by June 30, which is the end of the current fiscal year, are:

- Construction of an additional accessible route to the first floor of City Hall.
- Design of an interior corridor and an accessible parking lot at the rear of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and social hall.
- Projects at various locations around the city to:
  - Connect and fill gaps between pathways and athletic court entryways.
  - Decrease the pounds of pressure it takes to open exterior doors.
  - Revise and reposition accessible parking signs.

For more information about the audit and transition plan, contact Christine Henry at 240-314-8603 or **chenry@rockvillemd.gov**.

Mayor and Council Invite Comments on 'Rockville's Pike Neighborhood Plan'

First Public Hearing is April 11

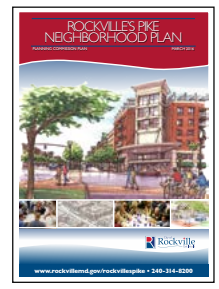
The Mayor and Council are beginning their review of the Planning Commission's recommended "Rockville's Pike Neighborhood Plan." On March 14, the Mayor and Council directed staff to open the public record and set two public hearings in order to solicit feedback from the public.

The "Rockville's Pike Neighborhood Plan" was approved by the Planning Commission on March 9. In accordance with Maryland law, the Mayor and Council have up to 150 days to review and act on the plan.

The first public hearing on the plan will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 11 in the Mayor and Council Chambers at City Hall. A second public hearing will be announced at a later date. The public record for written comments will remain open until Monday, May 23. Testimony may be sent to **mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov**, or by mail to City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

The Mayor and Council may adopt, amend, reject or send the plan back to the Planning Commission for further consideration. Once adopted by the Mayor and Council, the plan will become part of the city's Comprehensive Master Plan. If the Mayor and Council do not take action within the 150-day period, the Planning Commission's recommended plan will automatically become part of the city's Comprehensive Master Plan.

The recommended plan, which is being updated for the first time since 1989, establishes policies for land use, transportation, parks and



other topics along a key 2-mile stretch of the Rockville Pike corridor, south of Rockville Town Center. The plan seeks to ensure that there is a mix of commercial and residential uses along the corridor, that existing residential neighborhoods are protected, that the emerging new neighborhood is attractive, and that Rockville Pike retains and attracts local and national retail to enhance the corridor's economic viability.

The recommended plan can be read in full on the city's website at **www.rockvillemd.gov/rockvillespike**. Hard copies are available for review at City Hall and the Rockville and Twinbrook libraries. ✣

Rockville Science Day Returns with Animals, Rockets and Robots,

Hands-On Exhibits on Display April 24 at Montgomery College

The 27th annual Rockville Science Day offers a chance to experience science hands-on with exhibits from over 90 local organizations and businesses, featuring everything from snakes to birds, robots to rockets, and chemistry demos to biology games.

Science Day will be held rain or shine from noon-5 p.m. on Sunday, April 24 at Montgomery College – Rockville, 51 Mannakee St., offering fun for the whole family. Admission is free. Food will be available for purchase and there is plenty of free parking on campus.

Limited spaces remain for exhibitors. Volunteers are needed to help set up on the afternoon of Saturday, April 23, and to help run the exhibits on Sunday, April 24. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old. Student Service Learning hours are available.

For more information about attending, exhibiting or volunteering, visit **http://rockvillesciencecenter.org/rockville-science-day**. ✣

Register for the Rescheduled Diversity Leadership Workshop

"Building Bridges in a Diverse Society," a dynamic, highly interactive, free diversity leadership workshop offered by the city's Human Rights Commission, has been rescheduled for 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, April 16 in the Mayor and Council Chambers at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.

The workshop is for students attending high school in Rockville or Montgomery College – Rockville. The curriculum is designed to help students recognize prejudice and create an environment of inclusion in their schools. Student leaders of diverse backgrounds are especially encouraged to attend.

Student Service Learning credits will be offered and verification of hours attended is available for college students. Lunch will be provided.

Register by emailing Janet Kelly, the city's Human Rights Commission liaison, at **jkelly@rockvillemd.gov**. For more information, call 240-314-8316. If you need modifications to attend, please call the city's Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at 240-314-8108. ✣

BEHOLD THE YARN BOMBING BY FIBER ARTISTS… ***Community members took to Rockville Civic Center Park on Feb. 27 to "yarn bomb" the trees near the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre with colorful knit and crocheted creations. The practice of covering objects in public places with colorful knitted or crocheted designs has gained popularity worldwide as an expression of creative art.***

News You Can Use

Tips for Traffic Safety: What Drivers, Bicyclists and Pedestrians Can Do

Spring and summer in Rockville means more bike rides, family walks and road trips. As part of Rockville's Traffic Safety Month in April, the city offers the following tips for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians to keep in mind throughout the year:

Drivers

- Always come to a complete stop at all stop signs and red lights.
- Even when turning right on red, vehicles must come to a complete stop behind the stop bar, which is the solid white line before an intersection. Stopping at the stop bar allows drivers to see pedestrians and cross-traffic before entering the intersection.
- Always yield to people who are in the crosswalk or waiting at the crosswalk.

Bicyclists

- Use lights on bicycles and wear something bright and reflective, especially when riding at night, so drivers can see you.
- Obey all traffic signals and stop signs.
- Find more tips for riding bicycles in Rockville at **www.rockvillemd.gov/bicycling**.

Pedestrians

- Always cross the street at a crosswalk.
- Obey all traffic signals. This makes it easier for drivers to see you.
- Find more pedestrian safety tips at **www.rockvillemd.gov/pedestriansafety**.

Emerald Ash Borer Infestation Found

A new infestation of emerald ash borer (EAB) was recently identified in Rockville neighborhoods and the city is taking steps to prevent affected trees from becoming hazardous.

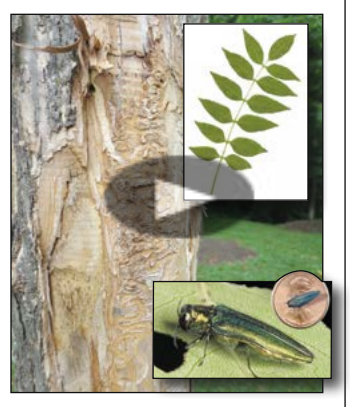
EAB is a non-native, wood-boring beetle that is specific to ash trees and has killed tens of millions of trees nationwide. This pest feeds on the tree's vascular system throughout the summer and fall, disrupting the movement of water and nutrients within the tree and eventually killing it. Once a significant infestation is identified, treatment options have proven ineffective in saving trees.

The city is working to remove 30-40 street trees on Glenmore Terrace, Lodge Place, Keynes Lane, Northrup Court, Dundee Road and Balmoral Drive. The stumps will be grounded out and new trees will be planted in the fall.

Rockville 11 talked with City Forester Wayne Noll about this pest. Find the report at www.rockvillemd.gov/youtube.

Although Rockville will remove infected trees within city right-of-way, all ash trees are at risk. There are insecticidal treatments that are effective in keeping trees free of EAB if they have not already been infested.

Homeowners with ash trees on their property should consult a state-licensed tree expert to determine the best treatment options. Information on identifying



ash trees and symptoms of EAB infestation can be found at **http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/eab_identification.aspx** or **www.emeraldashborer.info**.

For more information, contact Wayne Noll at 240-314-8700 or **wnoll@rockvillemd.gov**, or Neighborhood Resources Coordinator Hjarman Cordero at **hcordero@rockvillemd.gov** or 240-314-8344.

Study Recommendations to Shape the Future of Senior Services

A study to assess city services provided to seniors will allow Rockville to craft a strategic plan for providing senior services over the next decade.

RTI International, the city's contracted consultant, is scheduled to report findings and recommendations from the study to the Mayor and Council on Monday, April 18. The findings include data gathered from a survey of Rockville seniors about what's working and what could be improved.

The next step is to develop a plan for addressing the findings and recommendations contained in the study. City staff will work with the Mayor and Council and Rockville's Senior Citizens Commission to prioritize the recommendations made by RTI International and decide the best way to proceed.

Rockville's senior population is growing and changing rapidly and is expected to increase faster than any other age group in Rockville.

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.

For more information, visit **www.rockvillemd.gov/seniorstudy**, or contact Terri Hilton, the city's senior services manager, at 240-314-8802 or **thilton@rockvillemd.gov**.

Mayor and Council Consider Change to Recycling and Refuse Bills

Charge Would Appear on County Tax Bills

The Mayor and Council are seeking public input on a proposal that would place the city's fee for recycling and refuse collection on the Montgomery County real property tax bills.

Presently, the city sends bills for recycling and refuse collection directly to customers. The move is being considered as part of the Mayor and Council's work on the proposed Fiscal Year 2017 budget, with a final decision to be made as part of the budget adoption scheduled for Monday, May 16. Learn more about the budget on page 3.

Community members can comment on the proposed change during public hearings on the budget on Monday, April 4 and Monday, April 18; by email to **mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov**; or by mail to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. The public record closes on Monday, April 25.

The proposed change would have the following impacts:

- It would eliminate city billing for approximately 2,800 refuse-only accounts.
- For homeowners who pay their county tax bills through an escrow account, payment of the fee would be spread across monthly mortgage payments, similar to homeowners insurance.
- The proposed change would save the city's refuse fund approximately $1.3 million between FY17 and FY 2021.

The change would reduce operational costs, helping Rockville to keep the monthly recycling and refuse service fee as low as possible. Customers will continue to receive the same high level of service. If approved, customers would see the charge for the first time on their July 2016 tax bill for levy year 2016. The proposed annual charge of $424 would be for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

The proposed FY17 budget for the refuse fund is $7.4 million.

INFO. AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Water-saving Toilets Available for Low-income Homeowners

The city's Water Conservation Program offers new, water-saving toilets to Rockville homeowners based on financial need. Under the program, city staff will coordinate removal of up to two older, inefficient toilets per home and replace with new water-saving toilets.

Older toilets use between 3.5 and 7 gallons per flush (gpf), while new water saving toilets use 1.28 gpf and, depending on water usage, may reduce water bills.

To qualify, applicants must own their home in Rockville and meet installation criteria, as well as the family-size and income guidelines below. Toilets that use 1.6 gpf are not eligible for replacement.

FAMILY SIZE	MAXIMUM GROSS INCOME
1	$38,250
2	$43,700
3	$49,150
4	$54,600
5	$59,000
6	$63,350
7	$67,750
8	$72,100

Participating homeowners are responsible for maintenance and repair of the toilet fixture, accessories and plumbing features, upon installation. Funds are limited and toilet replacements will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible applicants.

For more information, and to apply, call the Community Services Division at 240-314-8310. Seniors (60 and older) should call the Senior Services Division at 240-314-8810.

Rockville Police Offer Rabies Clinics, Off-leash Testing

Rabies vaccination clinics are held on the third Sunday of each month through September from 8-10:30 a.m. at the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center, 7315 Muncaster Mill Road, in Derwood.

The city requires all dogs, cats and ferrets older than 4 months to be vaccinated for rabies and to have a current city license. Failure to vaccinate an animal may subject the owner to a $250 fine. The fine for an unlicensed pet is $50.

The clinics offer free or discounted rabies vaccinations after pet licenses are purchased. Reduced license fees are available for handicapped individuals, public assistance recipients and those 60 years of age or older. To receive service, all animals must be leashed or in carriers and controlled.

The next clinic will be held April 17. For more information, call 240-314-8930 or visit **www.rockvillemd.gov/rabiesclinic**.

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPRECIATE ROCKVILLE BUSINESSES… ***Rockville's elected officials, including Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton, center; with Tom Edson, chief financial officer at VariQ, left; and Asya Smith, chief operating officer at VariQ, right; joined city staff and REDI representatives to visit Rockville businesses for Business Appreciation Week from March 7-11. "Ambassadors" visited 50 businesses to discuss the city's business climate, to introduce owners to resources available to help their businesses grow and to thank companies for their contributions to the thriving local economy.***

THINGS TO DO IN ROCKVILLE

Take Swim Lessons Now to be Ready for Summer

If summer with the family means camps for kids, plenty of pool time, relaxing in lakes or taking a trip "down the shore," then spring is the time to enroll in Rockville's popular learn-to-swim classes for children and adults.

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center offers instruction for all ages, including "bubblers" and "bobbers" classes for parents and young children to attend together to learn safe swimming practices and skills.

Registration is open. Spaces are limited and early registration is recommended. Register online at **rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov**.

Find classes for youth to seniors on pages 57-63 of the spring recreation guide at **www.rockvilledmd.gov/guide**. Children's classes also include swim team prep. Adult classes include beginner classes and Swim 4 Fitness, for those looking to swim farther using different strokes.

Learn more about the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center at **www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter.**

Save the date for 3:30-6:30 p.m. on Friday, June 3 as the City of Rockville joins Montgomery County and the City of Gaithersburg for Water Safety Day at the Gaithersburg Water Park at Bohrer Park, 512 Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg. *Learn more on page 56 of the recreation guide.*

May is National Water Safety Month. Find water safety tips and other resources at **www.nationalwatersafetymonth.org**.

Get a Head Start on Hoop Dreams at Lincoln Park

Tiny Hoopers at Lincoln Park Community Center will teach kids age 4-7 sportsmanship, teamwork and basketball fundamentals.

The class will meet from 5:30-6:15 p.m. on Thursdays, from April 21-May 26 at the center, at 357 Frederick Ave.

The fee is $60 for residents and $75 for nonresidents. Registration is underway. Register for course #55091 online at **rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov**.

Find more recreation opportunities for children and adults of all ages in the spring recreation guide at **www.rockvillemd.gov/guide**.

Save the Date for the Suds & Soles 5K

Runners: Mark your calendar and prepare to take your marks for the Montgomery County Road Runners Club (MCRRC)'s newest race, right here in Rockville.

MCRRC is partnering with the City of Rockville to present Suds & Soles at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 25. The flat, fast, 5K course on neighborhood roads begins and ends in Town Center with a post-race party featuring commemorative mugs and the opportunity to sample some great beverages.

Proceeds from the run will benefit the Rockville Youth Recreation Fund and MCRRC's youth and beginning running programs. Learn more about the Rockville Youth Recreation Fund at **www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/financialassistance**.

Learn more and find opportunities to volunteer at the race at **www.mcrrc.org/calendar-event-suds-soles-5k/**. Email sudsandsoles@mcrrc.org.

Arts & Entertainment

Music, Food and Fun on Tap for Hometown Holidays This Memorial Day Weekend

More Than 30 Performances, the Taste of Rockville and the 'Beach' Return

More than 30 groups will take to four stages across six city blocks in Rockville Town Center for the city's Hometown Holidays Music Fest on Saturday, May 28 and Sunday, May 29.

Two hometown area bands will headline the 28th annual festival on Sunday. Baltimore's **Kelly Bell Band** will play at 6:30 p.m. and then join the original "Bad Boys of Bethesda," **The Nighthawks**, at 8:30 p.m. in the headlining slot on the Bud Light Beach Stage.

Other artists on the Bud Beach Light Stage include:

- Alternative band **Knox Hamilton** at 2 p.m. on Saturday.
- Soul/rock band **Sister Sparrow & The Dirty Birds** at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Flow Tribe,** playing funk, rock and psychodelic at 4 p.m. on Saturday.
- "BluesAmericanaRock" artist **Ted Garber** at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Additional acts include rock band **Radio Birds**, reggae favorite **Jah Works**, the roots rock of **The Alternate Routes**, and the **U.S. Navy Band Country Current**, playing country and bluegrass. Find a full schedule of performances at **www.rockvillemd.gov/hometownholidays**.

The weekend will once again feature favorite food from local restaurants at the Taste of Rockville, kids amusements, the return of the "beach" sand pile and the 72nd Annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade on Monday, May 30.

The festival is just a five-minute walk from the Rockville Metro station. Festival goers who drive or bike will find parking in the City Hall lots, Montgomery County Council office building garage on Fleet Street and the Metro station lots.

Learn more at **www.rockvillemd.gov/hometownholidays** or at "City of Rockville Hometown Holidays" on Facebook.

Glenview Gallery Offers Photos and Mixed Media This Month

Free James Mabry Performance at Opening Reception on April 3

Mixed media and photography come into focus in April at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.

The free show, April 3-22, features "Birds of Prey & Others," a photography exhibition by Chuck Bress; the mixed media "Botanical Illustrations" of Emily Pierce; and other mixed media artists in "Collaborations."

The exhibition opens with a free "Meet the Artists" reception from 1:30-3:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 3, featuring the blues guitar of local favorite James Mabry at 2 p.m.

The Rockville Art League's annual juried show returns to the gallery from May 1-27, with a free opening reception from 1:30-3:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 1.

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. No tickets or reservations are required for the opening reception or for visiting the gallery during normal hours. Artwork is available for sale.

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

Little Misses, Movie Music and an American Classic to Thrill at Fitzgerald Theatre

Pageants, and performances of "reel" music from film favorites and of Thornton Wilder's classic "Our Town," take the stage in April at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Drive.

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

America's Little Miss and Miss Earth United States

State preliminary for Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia

Sunday, April 3 at 1 and 5 p.m.

America's Little Miss features girls from infant to 12 years old showing their star power under the bright lights at 1 p.m. Winners advance to the national competition in Orlando, Fla. Miss Earth United States, at 5 p.m., an official preliminary to the Miss Earth competition, celebrates the region's most exceptional young women ages 11-37. Winners advance to national contests in New York and Washington, D.C.

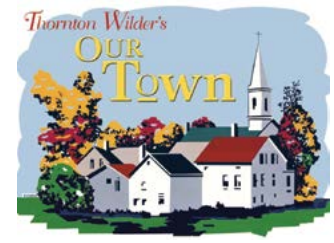
Tickets: $43 per event ($13 for children under 4). Separate tickets are required for each event.

Rockville Concert Band Presents 'Reel Music II'

Sunday, April 17 at 3 p.m.

The "Music for All Ages" series returns with "Reel Music II," the sequel to last year's hit concert. Relive 50 years of movie magic – from early color films to today's computer-generated imagery – as great films are brought to life through their great music.

No tickets required; $5 suggested donation.



Rockville Little Theatre Presents 'Our Town'

Fridays, April 29 and May 6; Saturdays, April 30 and May 7 at 8 p.m.; Sundays, May 1 and 8 at 2 p.m.

"Our Town" follows the Webb and Gibbs families through three acts and an entire lifetime in small-town Grover's Corners. Narrated by a stage manager and performed with minimal props and sets, this Pulitzer Prize-winning drama is an American classic.

Tickets: $22 ($20 students and seniors 62 and older).

We've got your summer covered!

Camps • Playgrounds • Teen Activities

Open to all metro-area families

Camps: From June 20-Aug. 24, choose from a variety of options. Extended care and transportation available.

Playgrounds: Supervised fun in Rockville neighborhoods from June 27-Aug. 4. Extended care at two sites and field trips available. Playgrounds Sampler June 20-24.

Teens: Future Leaders Camp, Leaders in Training volunteer opportunity or Skateboarding Camp. Preview of trips with Teens on the Go.

Pick up your guide at City Hall, Rockville recreation centers or the Rockville or Twinbrook libraries.

View the guide at **www.rockvillemd.gov/guide**.

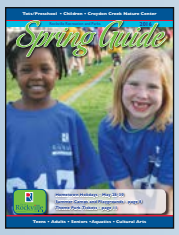
April Calendar

R = Residents • NR = Nonresidents • MEM = Member • NM = Nonmember = Earth Month Event

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

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 spring rec. and summer camp guides at www.rockvillemd.gov/guide.

1 Art Gallery 2017 Call for Entries deadline Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/glenviewgallery. GM

2,3 CPR/AED Training Class For health care professionals. Learn more at http://www.rockvillemd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6944. 4-9 p.m. Rockville Swim and Fitness Ctr., 355 Martins Lane.

3 America's Little Miss and Miss Earth United States 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. *See article on page 6.* FSF

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

4,11,18,25 Mommy and Me Play between caregiver and child. Center pass or daily membership required for caregivers. Age 4 and younger free. 10 a.m.-noon. Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy.

4-8 Spring Leaf Collection *See article on page 8.*

5 First Aid Training Class Learn more about this American Red Cross course at http://www.rockvillemd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6944. 4-9 p.m. Rockville Swim and Fitness Ctr.

5 Haitian Kompa Dance Class Free Demo. No partner needed. 6:30-7:25 p.m. Twinbrook Comm. Recreation Ctr., 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy.

7 Rockville Leadership Program First of six sessions. Build leadership skills while learning about the city's daily operations. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/leadershipprogram.

8 Thomas Farm Spring Volunteers Meeting Students wanting to earn SSL hours by helping with the May 14 Royal Tea *must* attend this meeting. 6-6:45 p.m. Thomas Farm Comm. Ctr., 700 Fallsgrove Dr.

8 Spring Fling Family Dance Enjoy a night of dancing with friends and family. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Refreshments sold by Meadow Hall Elementary PTA. 7-9 p.m. Twinbrook Comm. Recreation Ctr.

8 Deadline for TERRIFIC Bikes applications. *See article on page 8.*

9 Saturday Story and Hike Naturalist reads story and leads hike based on the story. Ages 2-5. Adult participation required. Dress for the weather. 10-11 a.m. CC

9 Green Your Backyard Information Session 1-2:30 p.m. *See the Earth Month calendar on page 2.* Twinbrook Comm. Recreation Ctr.

10 Family Geocaching Learn geocaching, then head out on our geocaching trail. All participants must register. 1:30-3 p.m. CC

11,18,25 Total Body Fit Bootcamp Build strength, burn fat and tone muscles in this new program. Free demo on April 11. Ages 16 and older. 7-8 p.m. Twinbrook Comm. Recreation Ctr.

13 Tiny Tots Springtime Festival A springtime celebration for preschool children and their parents includes gym time, crafts, games and a light snack. 10 a.m.-noon. Thomas Farm Comm. Ctr.

14,23 Nature Tots A naturalist helps children, ages 2-5, explore nature through play, crafts, stories and hikes. April 14 topic is "Eggs." April 23 topic is "Salamanders." Adult participation required. Preregistration recommended. 10-11:30 a.m. CC

15 Deadline for ROC-N Grant Program Applications *See article on page 8.*

15 Kids Laser Tag Party Grades 3-6. Register as individual players or teams of 2-10. All equipment is provided. Refreshments will be sold. 7-9:30 p.m. Thomas Farm Comm. Ctr.

16 Lincoln Park Community Center's Outdoor Community Yard Sale 8 a.m.-noon *See article on page 4.* Richard Montgomery H.S., 250 Richard Montgomery Dr.

16 "Building Bridges in a Diverse Society" Diversity Leadership Workshop FREE 9 a.m.-3 p.m. *See article on page 4.* CH

16 Croydon Creek Cleanup 9 a.m.-noon. *See the Earth Month calendar on page 2.* CC

16 Twinbrook Stream Cleanup 9-11 a.m. *See the Earth Month calendar on page 2.* Twinbrook Community Recreation Center.

16 Maryvale Stream Cleanup 10 a.m.-noon. *See the Earth Month calendar on page 2.* Maryvale Park, 812 First St.

16 Peerless Rockville Presents "Lessons from Leopold" *See article on page 2.* 2:30-4 p.m. Rockville Senior Ctr, Arts and Crafts Room, 1150 Carnation Dr.

16 Croydon Creep Campfire: Nature Trivia Put your nature knowledge to the test in front of the campfire. All ages. All participants must register. 8-9 p.m. CC

17 Rabies Vaccination Clinic 8-10:30 a.m. *See article on page 5.* Montgomery Co. Animal Services and Adoption Center, 7315 Muncaster Mill Road, Derwood.

17 Invasive Plant Pull 1:30-4:30 p.m. *See the Earth Month calendar on page 2.* CC

17 "Reel Music II" Presented by the Rockville Concert Band 3 p.m. *See article on page 6.* FSF

18,25 Junior Boot Camp Kids ages 5-8 build muscles, improve coordination and burn calories in a fun atmosphere. 6-6:50 p.m. Twinbrook Comm. Recreation Ctr.

19 "Rockville 2040" First Citywide Public Forum 6:30 p.m. *See ad on page 1.* VisArts, 155 Gibbs St.

21,28 Basketball/Soccer Class Learn basketball and soccer skills through game-related activities and drills to improve techniques and hand-eye coordination. Ages 4-6. 5-5:50 p.m. Twinbrook Comm. Recreation Ctr.

21,28 Tiny Hoopers 5:30-6:15 p.m. *See article on page 6.* Lincoln Park Comm. Ctr, 357 Frederick Ave.

22 Earth Day/Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony 2 p.m. *See the Earth Month calendar on page 2.* Beall Elementary School, 451 Beall Ave.

23 Superhero Party Kids age 2 and older can dress as their favorite superhero and spend an afternoon playing games, taking pictures with superheroes and enjoying refreshments. 2-4 p.m. Thomas Farm Comm. Ctr.

23 Spring Lifeguard Training Class American Red Cross course will certify students in lifeguard training, CPR/AED for the professional rescuer and first aid. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6477. 2-10 p.m. Rockville Swim and Fitness Ctr.

24 Rockville Science Day noon-5 p.m. FREE *See article on page 4.* Montgomery College-Rockville, 51 Mannakee St.

29,30 "Our Town" Presented by Rockville Little Theatre 8 p.m. *See article on page 6.* FSF

30 Prescription Drug Take-Back Day 10 a.m.-2 p.m. *See the Earth Month calendar on page 2.* Rockville City Police Station, 2 W. Montgomery Ave.

30 Spring Festival and Native Plant Sale 10 a.m.-2 p.m. *See the ad on this page.* CC

Boards and Commissions

Meetings are held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., unless otherwise noted. Find cancellations, rescheduling and contact information at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions.

6 Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee 7 p.m.

6 Sign Review Board 9 a.m.

7 Environment Commission 7 p.m.

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

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

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

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

20 Cultural Arts Commission 7 p.m.

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 6:30 p.m. 621-A Southlawn Lane.

27 Human Rights Commission 7:30 p.m.

28 Recreation and Park Advisory Board 7 p.m. Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Ave.

Vacancies

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

- Animal Matters Board (1 alt.)
- Board of Appeals (1 reg.; 1 alt.)
- Board of Supervisors of Elections (1)
- Compensation Commission (2)
- Cultural Arts Commission (5)
- Financial Advisory Board (1)
- Historic District Commission (1 reg.; 1 alt.)
- Human Rights Commission (3)
- Human Services Advisory Commission (3)
- Landlord Tenant Affairs Commission (3 reg.; 1 alt.)
- Planning Commission (2)
- Recreation and Park Advisory Board (3)
- Rockville Housing Enterprises (2)
- Rockville Seniors, Inc. (1)
- Senior Citizens Commission (3)
- Sign Review Board (3)

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

R11 LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CITY ON ROCKVILLE 11
Watch www.rockvillemd.gov/youtube

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

El Presupuesto, Inodoros que Ahorran-Agua y el Mes de la Tierra en Rockville

El siguiente es un resumen de algunas de las historias más importantes en este número de "Rockville Reports":

Alerta de Presupuesto: Año Fiscal 2017

El Alcalde de Rockville y el Consejo continúan las deliberaciones del presupuesto con una serie de audiencias y sesiones de trabajo enfocadas en la elaboración de un presupuesto del Año Fiscal 2017 que defina las prioridades de la ciudad. El Alcalde y el Consejo tienen programado realizar una audiencia pública y sesiones de trabajo sobre el presupuesto propuesto el lunes 4 de abril y una audiencia pública el lunes 18 de abril. El registro público cierra el lunes 25 de abril. El presupuesto, el cual cubre el año fiscal que comienza el 1 de julio, está programado para ser adoptado por el Alcalde y el Consejo el lunes 16 de mayo. Encuentre el presupuesto propuesto e información acerca de cómo proporcionar comentarios al Alcalde y al Consejo en **www.rockvillemd.gov/budget**.

Inodoros que Ahorran-agua para Propietarios de Viviendas de Bajos Ingresos

El Programa de Conservación de Agua de la Ciudad ofrece inodoros nuevos que ahorran-agua a los propietarios de vivienda de Rockville basados en una necesidad financiera. Bajo el programa, personal de la ciudad coordinará la remoción de hasta dos inodoros viejos e ineficientes por casa y los reemplazará con inodoros nuevos que ahorran-agua. Para calificar, los solicitantes deberán poseer su vivienda en Rockville y cumplir los criterios de instalación, así como los lineamientos de tamaño familiar e ingresos. Para más información y para solicitar llame a la División de Servicios Comunitarios al 240-314-8310. Personas de la tercera edad (60 años de edad o mayores) deberán llamar a la División de Servicios para personas de la tercera edad al 240-314-8810.

Abril es el Mes de la Tierra en Rockville

La ciudad celebra el 46vo Día de la Tierra y Día del Árbol el viernes 22 de abril. Es sólo un evento en un mes lleno de actividades gratuitas promoviendo la sostenibilidad del medio ambiente. Encuentre los detalles y consejos para ayudar al medio ambiente todo el año y aprenda como traer a un orador ambiental a su próxima reunión de la comunidad en **www.rockvillemd.gov/earthmonth**. Aprenda como involucrarse y vivir más verde y más saludable en **www.rockvillemd.gov/environment**.

Para más información en español, visite **www.rockvillemd.gov** y refiérase a la casilla "Seleccionar Idioma" en la esquina inferior derecha de la página.

In the Community

IN BRIEF

What Would Your Community Do with $1,000?

April 15 is the Deadline for ROC-N Grant Applications

Neighborhood associations could receive up to $1,000 in a matching grant for projects promoting community involvement.

Applications are being accepted through Friday, April 15 for Rockville's Organizing Communities and Neighborhoods (ROC-N) Matching Grant Program. The program is designed to support and empower neighborhood associations and encourage participation by community members. Projects must address one or more of the following:

- Neighborhood outreach and organizing.
- Social events aimed at fostering a sense of community pride.
- Neighborhood crime prevention.
- Neighborhood preservation.
- The acquisition of technology or supplies that directly support an existing community program.
- Neighborhood planning.

Qualified neighborhood organizations could receive up to $1,000 annually and must provide a cash or in-kind match equal to or greater than the grant amount requested. Applications are accepted twice a year, in April and October. Applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible. Funding is limited.

Projects are evaluated based on the neighborhood's ability to provide a funding match, the level of community involvement, project readiness, and the tangible neighborhood benefit. Projects are evaluated and selected for funding by a committee of City of Rockville staff.

The ROC-N Matching Grant Program is built on the premise that people who live in a neighborhood are its most valuable resource and are best able to identify the community's needs and make improvements or devise solutions to problems.

Find more information and applications at **www.rockvillemd.gov/ROC-NGrant** or call 240-314-8340.

MFD Program Expands Outreach

continued from pg. 1…

tices in organizing and enhancing the MFD outreach program. The USPAACC Business Roundtable Matchmaking & Networking Reception in March, where the division hosted a table with Pepco and Prince George's County, allowed various MFD businesses to discuss their expertise and learn about business opportunities with the city. Staff also attended the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's 7th Annual Business Expo.

In the coming months, staff will attend additional networking events and looks forward to hosting gatherings and conducting outreach to city contractors about MFD subcontracting opportunities.

Learn more in Rockville 11's "Rockville Roll Call" at **www.rockvillemd.gov/youtube**.

Mayor and Council Consider Economic Incentives

REDI Proposals Would Target New and Existing Companies

The city's economic development agency is proposing three incentive programs aimed at reducing commercial property vacancies, enhancing marketing efforts to highlight Rockville as a great business location, and increasing Rockville's competitive advantage over neighboring jurisdictions.

Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI) Executive Director Laurie Boyer presented the proposed programs to the Mayor and Council on Feb. 22. Find a staff report and video of the presentation at **www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter**.

The proposed incentives, which would apply to both new and expanding Rockville companies, are:

Rockville MOVE Program: The program, short for Make Office Vacancies Extinct, would supplement an existing Montgomery County program that provides grants to businesses relocating to, or establishing office space in, the county. REDI recommends supplementing the $8-per-square-foot county grant with a $4-per-square-foot city grant for businesses locating within Rockville. Learn more about the county program at **www.choosemontgomerymd.com/programs-incentives/financial-tax-incentives/move-program**.

Business Expansion Fund: The program would support existing businesses that are operating in office, industrial or flex space and are seeking to expand. Eligible businesses could receive a grant of up to $5 per square foot to lease or purchase additional space.

Core Improvement Fund: The fund would provide matching grants to help businesses in specific industries make improvements to their buildings and sites. Retail and restaurant businesses could receive matching grants of up to $25,000 for facade improvements. Cybersecurity, high technology, life sciences and health care firms, and other identified target industries, could receive matching grants of up to $50,000 for infrastructure improvements such as broadband or electrical upgrades, road improvements and sewer connections.

The Mayor and Council asked REDI to vet the proposed incentives with REDI and Rockville Chamber of Commerce members, commercial real estate brokers, the new Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation and the Montgomery County Business Development Corporation.

Spring Leaf Collection Takes Place in April

Interactive Map Shows Dates for Neighborhoods

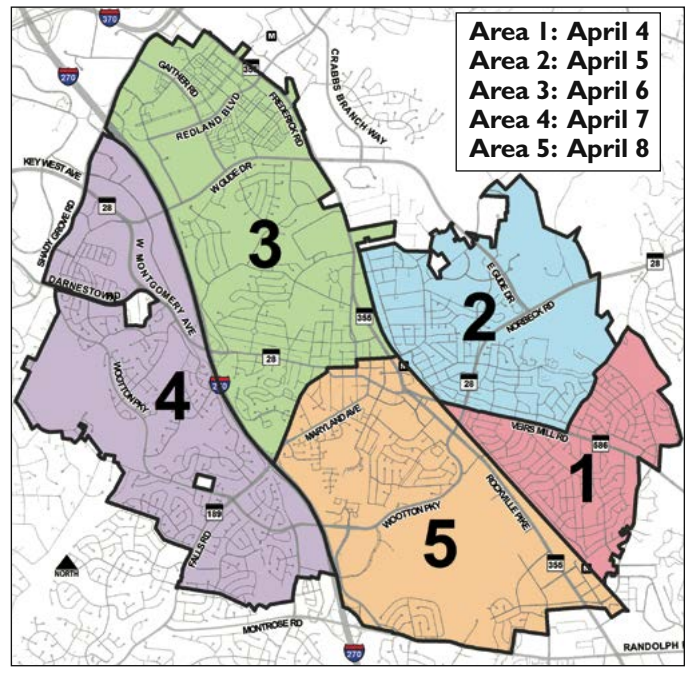
The city will vacuum leaves from neighborhood curbs from April 4–8 in five collection areas throughout Rockville.

Residents should rake leaves into the gutter or immediately adjacent to the pavement, if no curb or gutter exists. Leaves should be raked no earlier than one week before the scheduled collection day. This avoids the accumulation of leaves near and on the streets, which can lead to fire hazards or grass damage.

To learn when your neighborhood collection will be, see the map on this page or use the interactive map at **www.rockvillemd.gov/leafcollection**, which allows residents to input their address to learn when leaves will be collected in their neighborhood.

Place leaves at the curb by 6 a.m. on the collection dates. Do not use plastic bags. Biodegradable paper lawn bags are acceptable.

After the collection dates, leaves may still be set out in paper lawn bags or 32-gallon trash cans with yard waste on recycling and refuse collection day. For more information, visit **www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse**.



Deadline Approaches for 'TERRIFIC' Kids to Earn Bikes

Good Deeds and Applications are Due April 8

Friday, April 8 is the deadline for Rockville students to complete good deeds and apply to earn a free refurbished bike through the city's TERRIFIC Bikes program.

Organized by the city and the Rockville Bike Hub, the program is open to students in grades 1-5 in Rockville public or private schools and to home school students.

Students must have a sponsor (such as a teacher or relative) to track their progress and must submit the participation form, at **www.rockvillemd.gov/terrificbikes**, with a postmark no later than Friday, April 8.

TERRIFIC stands for Trustworthy, Earnest, Respectful, Responsible, Involved, Fair, Industrious and Caring. Students receiving bikes will display these attributes by completing six responsible acts, such as perfect school attendance for one month or volunteering at a charitable organization for an hour.

Bike recipients will be recognized at the Mayor and Council meeting on Monday, May 2 as part of the city's observance of Bike Month. Bikes will be distributed on Sunday, May 15.

The Rockville Bike Hub is accepting donations to the program. Visit **www.rockvillebikehub.org** or email **rockvillebikehub@gmail.com** to learn more.

For more information, call 240-314-8620.

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