



Rockville Reports

JULY/AUGUST 2020 • VOL. 66 #6



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COVID-19: Planning for Reopening

Planning and preparation to welcome back visitors to Rockville City Hall and some other facilities are still underway, so no definitive date for reopening can be established.

When city facilities do reopen, health and safety will be the city's first and foremost concern, and will include additional cleaning and physical distancing. City employees who provide in-person service to customers will be present and those able to work from home will continue to do so.

The city will continue to offer many virtual services, and recommends investigating available virtual resources and only making in-person visits when absolutely necessary. In-person visits will be conducted by appointment as much as possible.

The Mayor and Council, and boards and commissions, will continue to meet via teleconference during this period.

Information about reopening will be available on the city's website, social media and Rockville channel 11.

Limited Swim and Fitness Center Service Available

Playgrounds and Courts Open; In-Person Camps Return

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center has reopened to members and city residents only, with reservations available for limited services and activities, including lap swimming at its indoor and outdoor pools, and for the fitness room. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter for full details.

Rockville's basketball, tennis and pickleball courts, the dog park at King Farm, and playgrounds, are open. Bathrooms at outdoor facilities will remain closed except for city-sponsored programs. Fitness stations, volleyball courts and athletic fields that are not locked can be used by the public.

Registration is now open for Park Adventures, Rockville's in-person camps outdoors. See the article on page 4 for more details.

The City of Rockville Expands Options for Outdoor Dining

Rockville restaurants can now take advantage of an expedited permitting process that allows local eateries to temporarily create or expand outdoor spaces for dining on private property and within the city's rights of way. This process was intended to assist local businesses as Montgomery County began recovery from the COVID-19 emergency.

Gibbs Street has been closed between East Middle Lane and Beall Avenue, as has East Montgomery Avenue, between Maryland Avenue and Helen Heneghan Way, for expanded outdoor dining areas.

East Montgomery Avenue will remain open to vehicular traffic between Helen Heneghan Way and Monroe Street.

Find a directory of Rockville restaurants, with pickup and outside dining availability, at bit.ly/rkvrestaurants.

Rockville to Celebrate July Fourth Online

The City of Rockville and Montgomery County are joining together and planning a stay-at-home July Fourth celebration. Details were still developing as this edition of "Rockville Reports" went to print. Details about the celebration will be shared through social media.

National Night Out Moves to October

National Night Out, the annual celebration of community spirit and community policing partnerships, will now be held Oct. 6. Normally held in August, the event has been moved because of health concerns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Food Distribution

Need food during the COVID-19 emergency? Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19-food for a list of food resources around the county and other important information.

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Police Pledge to Work with Community and Mayor and Council

Chief Brito Outlines Department's Approach to Unbiased Community Policing

The Rockville City Police Department welcomes the opportunity to engage with the community about how the department can take steps to ensure its focus remains on effective, fair, impartial and unbiased community policing that meets the expectations of the law, city leaders and the community, said Rockville City Police Chief Victor Brito in a presentation to the Mayor and Council on June 22.

Rockville's response to George Floyd's death included an open letter to the community from Chief Brito on May 28, joint statements by the Mayor and Council, and a video message by Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and Chief Brito in the days that followed. Find them at RockvilleReports.com/rockville-responds-to-the-death-of-george-floyd. Rockville police also joined the Mayor and Council to

support a peaceful protest in Rockville on June 5.

Chief's Brito's presentation addressed policing policies and procedures raised by the Campaign Zero nonprofit organization's #8CANTWAIT movement. Banning chokeholds and requiring officers to attempt de-escalation when responding to calls are two of the policy and procedural changes called for by the campaign. RCPD general orders adhere to best practices and are in line with #8CANTWAIT recommendations.

Chief Brito outlined efforts by RCPD to show accountability and earn the community's trust, including a body-worn camera program that has been in place for the past three years, as well as a Fair and Impartial Policing training program with the community,

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Earn Your Spot in the History Books: Serve on the Charter Review Commission

The Mayor and Council have added an additional public hearing date to receive comments from the community on what the scope should be for the work of the Charter Review Commission, which will review and recommend changes to Rockville's founding document — the charter.

The public hearing will be 7 p.m. Monday, July 13.

The charter, which dates back to the city's incorporation in 1860, defines how the city is run, similar to a constitution. The document empowers the city to pass ordinances, in accordance with state laws, establishes the city's corporate limits, and outlines how the city is organized and conducts business. This includes term length and number of elected officials, holding elections, levying taxes, adopting ordinances and providing services.

The commission, which will

review specific provisions of the charter and recommend changes, will have 11 Rockville residents who meet once or twice per month. Once convened, the commission will solicit resident input.

The last review commission was created in 2012. According to its Dec. 19, 2012 report, the commission was "comprised of citizens with diverse backgrounds, interest and experience, all of whom are committed to making Rockville the best City it can be. The Commission reflects an incredible amount of experience in Rockville, for which we all have dedication and commitment to this truly All America City."

Interested applicants should submit a resume and expression of interest to the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations by **5 p.m. Wednesday, July 8**. For more information, contact 240-314-8280 or cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov.

Check Once, Check Twice

City Hall Closed, Recycling and Trash Collected as Usual

News about impacts from actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 means some uncertainty for activities, programs and facility hours in the City of Rockville. Please check our online resources to see if any information contained in this edition of "Rockville Reports" has changed.

City Hall and some city facilities will be closed Friday, July 3 in observance of Independence Day.

Recycling, trash and yard waste is not typically collected on Fridays and will be collected on the usual schedule during the week. Find more information at www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash.

Parking will be free at city-owned meters on Saturday, July 4, when the city will participate with Montgomery County and other county municipalities in a virtual celebration of Independence Day. See the COVID-19 update on this page for details.

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

In This Issue...

COMMUTER ALERT: Rockville Metro Pedestrian Bridge Closes for Repairs. See Page 2 for details.

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4 Community Census Challenge.

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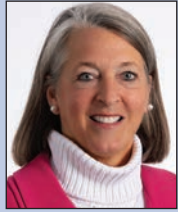
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Mayor & Council

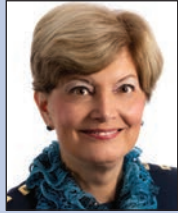
mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov



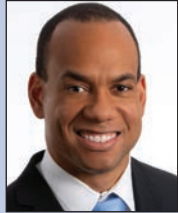
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bnewton@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Monique Ashton
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Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg
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Councilmember David Myles
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Councilmember Mark Pierzchala
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VIRTUAL MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD ONLINE. Meetings are closed to in-person attendance and are livestreamed at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11.

Meetings Schedule: Mondays, July 6, 13 at 7 p.m. and July 20 at 6 p.m. and Aug. 3 at 7 p.m. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

The July 13 and Aug. 3 meetings will be preceded by a drop-in session by telephone with Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton, and councilmembers Beryl L. Feinberg (July 13) and Mark Pierzchala (Aug. 3), from 5-5:45 p.m. To participate, sign up by 2 p.m. the day of the drop-in at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil.

If you wish to submit comments in writing for community forum or public hearings, please email mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov by 2 p.m. on Mondays prior to meeting.

Share comments live during community forum. Sign up by calling the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations at 240-314-8280 by 9 a.m. the day of the meeting.

All comments will be acknowledged by the Mayor and Council at the meeting and added to the agenda for public viewing on the website. To practice responsible social distancing, Mayor and Council meetings will be conducted by teleconference and broadcast on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, livestreamed at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11, and available a day after each meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand.

Mayor and Council Approve FY 2021 Budget with Eye to COVID-19 Emergency

The Mayor and Council in May adopted a \$140.2 million city budget that helps to address the unknowns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on Rockville, while maintaining the same level of service to city residents.

The adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2021, which begins July 1, keeps the general fund at the same level as FY 2020. The city's real property tax rate of \$0.292 per \$100 of assessed valuation also remains the same. All residential and commercial property owners pay this tax. Rockville has not increased its property tax rate in over 25 years.

Water, sewer, stormwater management, and recycling and trash service, also remain at their FY20 rates.

The \$84.6 million general fund supports the largest portion of the operating budget and includes spending reductions approved by the Mayor and Council in response to the pandemic. The Mayor and Council voted to leave six vacant positions unfilled, freeze hiring except for essential positions, eliminate step and merit increases for city employees, increase reserve levels, and ensure that revenues are estimated conservatively. The budget preserves a 1% cost-of-living adjustment for employees below the department-head level.

In the capital budget, the Mayor and Council added funds for a fire suppression system at the King Farm Farmstead's house and dairy barns. The investment will support planning for rehabilitation and future use of the historic property, at 1101 Grand Champion Drive.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.

Mayor and Council Extend Time to Make Decision on Park Road and North/South Stonestreet Ave. Area Plan Amendment

The Mayor and Council have extended to Saturday, Aug. 22 the deadline to decide on the draft of the Park Road and North/South Stonestreet Avenue Area Comprehensive Master Plan Amendment.

The extension results from additional time needed to accommodate public hearing testimony into virtual meetings. A public hearing was held on the draft via videoconference during the Mayor and Council's June 8 meeting.

At their meeting on July 13, the Mayor and Council will discuss testimony, potential revisions to the draft plan, and possible adoption.

sible adoption.

The amendment promotes a walkable, transit-oriented mix of residential and commercial development immediately across Park Road from the Rockville Metro Station, and would set policies to permit additional housing types in the residential areas closest to the station across South Stonestreet Avenue.

For more information, contact Andrea Gilles at agilles@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8273. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/stonestreetstudy to view the amendment and www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter to view the Mayor and Council agenda.

Rockville Creates New Department of Housing and Community Development

The City of Rockville has merged several divisions to form a new Department of Housing and Community Development, which will more efficiently and effectively address the affordable housing and social services needs of city residents.

The Mayor and Council approved the structure of the new department at their Monday, June 22 meeting. It will be led by Asmara Habte, previously the chief of housing programs.

The department brings together the city's divisions of community services, housing, and human rights and mediation into an organizational structure that resembles other successful housing and community development departments

throughout the country. The framework for the department is centered around assisting current and future Rockville residents through strategic planning, policy and supportive services.

The reorganization comes at no additional cost to taxpayers.

"This organizational realignment will help the city respond in a more coordinated, seamless, and effective manner by building on the city's existing infrastructure and talented and dedicated staff," the staff report accompanying the briefing to the Mayor and Council states.

To watch the Mayor and Council's meeting and to read the staff report, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

COMMUTER ALERT: As a safety precaution, Metro has closed access to the pedestrian bridge over MD 355 (Rockville Pike) at the Rockville Metro station. Rehabilitation of the bridge structure was already identified as a critical need and all engineering work related to the project has been completed. Metro is working to determine a timeline for the duration of the rehabilitation.

Looking Ahead with Vision Zero

The Mayor and Council are expected to put Rockville on a course for zero traffic-related deaths or serious injuries with a vote Monday, July 6 on the city's Vision Zero Action Plan.

The plan, which the Mayor and Council discussed June 22, includes steps to create safer streets through policies promoting improved design, traffic law enforcement and education.

While there are ongoing city efforts in these areas, the plan lays

out a coordinated and systematic approach to explore ways to reach the goal. It included input from the Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee, Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Traffic and Transportation Commission, and the Senior Citizens Commission.

The 33-page plan, which city staff will begin putting in place this month, includes:

- An explanation of Vision Zero, including how the Vision Zero

approach to safe mobility differs from the traditional approach to traffic and pedestrian safety.

- Background on Vision Zero efforts in the city, county and globally.
- An explanation of how the plan will ensure fairness and equity.
- A brief crash data analysis and an explanation of how further data analysis will help create a systematic approach to providing safe mobility citywide.
- Descriptions of engineering,

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS: Main: 240-314-5000

Police Non-emergency: 240-314-8900

24-Hour Utility Emergency Report Hotline: 240-314-8567



STAY INFORMED: The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil. Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting.

Get Involved with the City

- **Send an email** to mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov.
- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov or by mail to the City Clerk's Office, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Volunteer** to be on a board or commission. Find ways to give of your time and talents at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.

Boards and Commissions

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may write to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280, or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions.

While some meetings are canceled, other boards and commissions meetings will take place virtually in May. See *times and dates*, and ways to participate at city's online calendar: www.rockvillemd.gov.

- **July 8 and 22, Aug. 10** Planning Comm. 7 p.m. (All may be held by teleconference. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details closer to the meeting dates.)

Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Board of Supervisors of Elections (2)
- Charter Review Comm. (12)
- Environment Comm. (1)
- Ethics Comm. (2)
- Historic District Comm. (1 reg., 1 alt.)
- Human Services Advisory Comm. (2)
- Landlord-Tenant Affairs Comm. (1 tenant alt.)
- Planning Comm. (1)
- Senior Citizens Comm. (1)

For more, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions or call 240-314-8280.

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www.youtube.com/cityofrockville

SPEAK UP

Report potential fraud, waste and abuse related to City of Rockville government services and employees.

Call 1-866-921-6714

Email rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca
Visit www.integritycounts.ca/org/rockvillemd
For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse.

City Continues to Provide Safe, Reliable Drinking Water

Rockville's drinking water continues to earn high marks for safety and reliability, even as the city's water treatment plant balances safety measures for staff and the city's water infrastructure in the face of the COVID-19 emergency, the city's Department of Public Works said in the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report.

Once again Rockville's drinking water met or exceeded all federal water quality regulation limits in the report, released each July 1.

"COVID-19 is having a major impact on the City of Rockville, just as it has on the entire global population," Craig Simoneau, the city's director of public works, said in a letter introducing the report. "This unprecedented time has required us to implement additional steps to protect our dedicated, essential staff members and the city's drinking water system."

That includes reducing staffing levels to minimize potential exposure to the virus while maintaining round-the-clock monitoring of the city's water supply. COVID-19 has not been detected in drinking water, and virus transmission is not

a risk in treated drinking water. To learn more, visit RockvilleReports.com/rockvilles-water-and-the-coronavirus-covid-19.

Plant operators actively monitor water quality to ensure protective levels of chlorine and corrosion control, which prevents lead and copper in distribution pipes from leaching into drinking water. For their efforts, 2019 was the sixth consecutive year that plant operators received the Directors Award for voluntary participation in the Partnership for Safe Water. The award recognizes the competence of the city's operators and their desire to go beyond regulatory standards to achieve the highest water quality for Rockville customers.

The city's water treatment plant, on the banks of the Potomac River, serves 70% of Rockville, or approximately 13,000 accounts and 52,000 community members. The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission serves the remainder of the city.

To learn more about the source and quality of Rockville's drinking water, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/annualwaterquality2020. ❀

Don't Push It: All City Pedestrian Signals Are Now Automated

Nearly 50 pedestrian signals, accounting for all the signals operated by the city on Rockville streets, are now automated as part of the city's response to the COVID-19 emergency.

City signal technicians automated the 48 signals by revising the timing plan that controls the traffic signal timing and sequence. The traffic signals were reprogrammed to be on automated pedestrian recall, which means that the signal controlling software assumes that a pedestrian is pushing the button at every cycle. This will allow the pedestrian to get a "WALK" signal without the need to push the button.

Technicians also posted signs advising pedestrians not to push the buttons to activate the walk signal and alerting them to the

automation. The changes discourage pedestrians from pressing the buttons as a precaution against contact with surfaces, which could spread the coronavirus, the virus that causes COVID-19.

The push button is still exposed to help the visual and hearing impaired feel the button vibrate to signal that it is safe to cross. Those who need it can still push the button to get the vibration and the sound indicating the right time to cross.

The changes require a bit of patience from motorists, who might notice that traffic has a red light even when no one is crossing. Signals are timed so that the walk signal comes up every cycle, giving pedestrians enough time to safely cross while vehicles

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Police Pledge

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focused on implicit bias. He pledged to further those efforts by increasing the frequency of the community trainings.

Chief Brito said the department continues to favor

creating a civilian public safety community advisory council and is committed to participating in a community forum on racial justice soon.

For more information, find video of the presentation with the June 22 agenda at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. ❀

COVID-19 Roundup

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Rockville seniors can call the senior center at 240-314-8800, from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, for assistance with food.

Mental Health and Wellness

The coronavirus pandemic is causing increased stress and anxiety, so the Mental Health Association of Maryland has curated a list of trusted resources to help during this unusual, and potentially difficult, time. Visit www.mhamd.org/coronavirus.

Mayor and Council Enact Temporary Freeze on Residential Rental Rates

The Mayor and Council took action to protect residential renters during the COVID-19 emergency, passing an ordinance to temporarily suspend rent increases at licensed rental properties through July 31.

Under the new legislation, no rents may be raised through July 31. From Aug. 1, until 180 days after the state of emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is lifted, rents may be raised by no more than 2.6%.

For more information, contact the city's divisions of Code Enforcement at 240-314-8330 or Landlord-Tenant Affairs at 240-314-8320. For more landlord and tenant resources, and to see the ordinance, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/259/Landlord-Tenant-Complaints.

Safer Shopping in Store at Rockville Farmers Market

Preordering Service Provided for Quicker, Safer Shopping

The City of Rockville's Farmers Market is open for the season, with market rules and regulations and a pre-ordering program for quicker, safer shopping.

The market will be open 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays, through Nov. 21, in the jury parking lot at East Jefferson (Route 28) and Monroe streets in Rockville Town Center.

The city is following state guidelines that allow farmers markets to open during the COVID-19 emergency with social distancing and other safety measures to reduce the risks to customers and vendors. A state order requires that face coverings be worn at retail and food service establishments, including farmers markets.

Preorder from vendors whenever possible. A list of vendors accepting preorders is available at www.rockvillemd.gov/farmers.

Rockville 11's COVID-19 Coverage

Rockville 11 is part of The PEG Network/Connect Montgomery Alliance — local cable access operators that provide trusted information about government, schools and the arts for Montgomery County residents.

As a part of this alliance, Rockville 11 is sharing the latest information on COVID-19 with a 90-minute programming block, airing daily with useful news during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Find the schedule at www.rockvillemd.gov/Rockville11.

Stay Informed

For the latest city-related information, follow the City of Rockville on social media (Nextdoor, Facebook and Twitter), visit the website at www.rockvillemd.gov, or sign up for Alert Rockville at www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts.

The city has created an email newsletter to keep community members up-to-date on COVID-19 news, including city, state and county news; Rockville closures and cancellations; resources on how to help in the community; and safe and fun activity ideas for families to do at home. Visit mailchi.mp/rockvillemd/covid19updates to sign up and receive the newsletter daily in your inbox.

For general inquiries about city operations, call 240-314-5000. ❀

MobileNOW! Parking Meter Payment App Ceases Operation

MobileNOW!, the City of Rockville's mobile parking payment app, ceased operations on May 18 and will no longer be an option for parking payments at city-owned on-street meters.

The company, which operated on a contract with the city, informed the city that it was ceasing operations due to factors related to the COVID-19 emergency.

Effective immediately, motorists parking at city meters are no longer able to pay using the app. Meters will accept quarters only.

MobileNOW! account holders are encouraged to view their account history information on the company website at www.mobile-now.us. The company stated the site will continue to exist for a limited time, although the mobile application has already been deactivated. The website provides information on refunding existing "wallet" balances to customers. Because MobileNOW! is a contract vendor, the City of Rockville does not have information about customer transactions.

The city is exploring other vendors to take the place of MobileNow, including ParkMobile, which is used by neighboring jurisdictions, including Montgomery County and Washington, D.C.

For more information, visit RockvilleReports.com/mobilenow-parking-meter-payment-app-ceases-operations.

Summer Street Paving Schedule is Posted

The city has released its road paving schedule through July.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/street-repairs to find updated paving schedules for Grandin Avenue, Edmonston and West Edmonston drives, Wootton Parkway, and Tower Oaks and Redland boulevards.

"No parking" signs will be posted within 48 hours of the start of work. Temporary traffic stoppages are necessary for safety but should have minimal impact on traffic. The schedule is subject to change based on weather conditions and coordination with other utility work.

Learn more about the paving process and how Rockville prioritizes paving projects at RockvilleReports.com/summer-street-paving-schedule-is-posted.

Coronavirus Leads to New Ways of Doing Business with City's Planning Dept.

With the closure of in-person visits to City Hall, Rockville's Planning and Development Services Department has adopted a new service approach that allows customers to do business from the convenience of their couch.

Staff members have adopted non-paper-intensive processing of planning documents, permit applications, licenses and plan review via email, phone, online and virtually. Customers can submit materials electronically, saving them a trip to City Hall.

"We're seeing a lot of people use our new electronic services, and they're telling us they want those services to continue," said John Foreman, Rockville's development services manager.

The public can also log on and take part in teleconferenced meetings of the Planning Commission, Board of Appeals and Historic District Commission. Inspections have continued virtually as well, helping to keep building and other projects on track.

Local eateries can take advantage of eased restrictions that allow outdoor dining by applying for a temporary outdoor dining permit. The permit allows Rockville's restaurants to temporarily create or expand outdoor spaces for dining on private property and within the city's rights of way, such as Gibbs Street and East Montgomery Avenue, which was recently closed to allow space for diners.

To see the new services available, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/159/Planning-and-Development-Services.



CHARGED UP AT THOMAS FARM ... Pepco has powered up three new electric vehicle charging stations at the city's Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Drive. Drivers will be able to charge their vehicles at competitive rates at the city's first DC Fast Charging station or two Level 2 smart chargers — both of which are fueled by 100% carbon-free energy. Get a look at one of the charging stations and learn more at RockvilleReports.com/charged-up-at-thomas-farm. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/solarhomes to learn more about an opportunity to install an electric vehicle charger at your home.

Mayor and Council Help Theater Arts During Tough Times

The Mayor and Council recently issued \$15,000 in one-time grants to Rockville's resident theater companies to help them weather the COVID-19 emergency.

Rockville Little Theatre, Rockville Musical Theatre and the Victorian Lyric Opera Company, which perform seasonally at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, each received \$5,000. The resident companies are almost entirely volunteer run.

The grants are included in the Fiscal Year 2021 budget, which begins July 1. See the FY 2021 budget at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.

Due to the COVID-19 emergency, the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre is closed until further notice. For more information, and for tickets for shows beginning later this year, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre.

In-Person Outdoor Camps, Beginning in July, Now Registering

Registration is now open for Park Adventures, Rockville's in-person camps outdoors, where kids will be able to enjoy sports, games, crafts and nature activities.

Sessions will run 9 a.m.-noon for two weeks, with new sessions each week from July 13-Aug. 3.

Under state guidelines to minimize infections from COVID-19, outdoor camps are recommended and only Maryland residents are permitted to register. Spaces will be limited, and total camp numbers have been reduced to allow for proper physical distancing and mandated group sizes.

Safety measures in place for the camps include curbside drop-off, health screenings and temperature checks for campers and staff, requiring face coverings where physical distancing cannot be observed, and small groups that stay together throughout the sessions.

For program details and to register, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

Solar Co-op: Affordable Options for Rooftop Panels or Vehicle Chargers

The 4th Rockville Solar Co-op presents an opportunity to harness solar to power your home or business or electricity to charge up your vehicle.

Community members interested in installing solar panels on their home or business, or an electric vehicle charger, can take advantage of group pricing, rebates and tax credits, and receive guidance throughout the process. Participants sign independent contracts with the rooftop solar system installer, but band together with other co-op participants to negotiate a volume discount and reduce the total cost of installation. Leasing options, with no upfront costs, add to the affordability of solar rooftop panels, which pay for themselves in energy savings over time.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/solarhomes to learn more.

Vision Zero

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enforcement, education and policy actions to take toward achieving Vision Zero.

- An explanation of how the plan will be implemented to ensure transparency and accountability to meet Vision Zero goals.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/visionzero or find the June 22 Mayor and Council meeting agenda at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.



Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

Reach out to Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito at rdspirito@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8102.

Community Census Challenge: How's Your Community Responding to the 2020 Census?

Want to know how Rockville rates in responding to the 2020 Census? How do we stack up against other areas? Check out the census rate map.

You can search for response rates for states, counties, cities and census tracts, and compare those to 2010 Census response rates.

1. Open the census rate map (at 2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html).
2. In the "State" dropdown menu, select "Maryland."
3. When Maryland map appears, select "Rockville" under the "City" dropdown menu.

Challenge a friend to complete the census.

Complete the census online at my2020census.gov. All you need to start is your address. You can customize the questionnaire to your preferred language.

Census takers could start visiting homes starting in mid-July to collect information for the 2020 Census. If they do, check to make sure they have a valid ID badge with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date.

Census workers may also carry Census Bureau bags and other equipment with the Census Bureau logo.

Free Senior Seminars in July Cover Hydration, Bones, Feet and Hearing

The Rockville Senior Center has gone virtual for all its summer classes, including some free classes on how to stay hydrated, strengthen bones and take care of your feet and hearing.

For details, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation.

You can register online, call 240-314-8800 or email seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov for more information.

Facts and Myths of Staying Hydrated

From 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, July 7, learn the importance of staying hydrated, and interesting facts and myths about water and our bodies, during this free class with Bozena Skraban, senior program coordinator with Community Health Center for Health Equality and Wellness at Adventist HealthCare. Register with course #13627.

Strong Bones and How to Get Them

Learn how to increase

bone density at any age, look at what you eat and how it may affect your bones, during this seminar with Sharon Bourke, founder and executive director of Life Energy Foundation. Takes place 1-2 p.m. Wednesday, July 8. Register with course #13622.

Basic Foot Care

Akukeng Mba, a certified nurse practitioner, will show you the best way to take care of your feet, from 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, July 14. Register with course #13626.

Listen Up

Learn how hearing loss is identified, the challenges that result from hearing impairment and the many treatment options available. The class will be held 1-2 p.m. Thursday, July 23. Register with course #13628. Presented through Suburban/Johns Hopkins. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/seniorcenter for more info.



WALTER 'BIG TRAIN' JOHNSON STATUE WINDS UP AT DOGWOOD PARK ... A statue of Walter "Big Train" Johnson, one of the most accomplished pitchers of all time, now stands as a centerpiece to Dogwood Park in a replica ballfield that represents his more than two-decade career on the mound with the Washington Senators.

The statue, created by artist Kris Connors, took about five weeks to finish. The Rockville Baseball Association contributed half the funds for creation of the statue and its installation. Dogwood Park is located at 800 Monroe St.

Pedestrian Signals

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are stopped, then stopping pedestrians to allow the flow of vehicle traffic.

As always, use caution when approaching an intersection on foot, or by bicycle or motor vehicle.

Motorists should always stop for pedestrians in crosswalks. Pedestrians should always cross at a signalized intersection or marked crosswalk, stopping at the curb and making eye contact with drivers before crossing.

Rockville Town Center is OPEN for outdoor dining!



Rockville restaurants can now take advantage of an expedited permitting process that allows local eateries to temporarily create or expand outdoor spaces for dining.

Outdoor Dining Locations



E. Montgomery Avenue
between Maryland Avenue and Helen Heneghan Way

Gibbs Street
between East Middle Lane and Beall Avenue



Get Into It

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Deputy City Manager: Jennifer Kimball
Director of Communication: Marylou Berg
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ANOTHER BANNER YEAR FOR THE CITY ... Rockville has once again been named a "Banner City" by the Maryland Municipal League. The program recognizes municipalities whose elected and appointed officials are the league's most engaged members. Fifty-eight of the state's 157 municipalities received the designation in 2020. They were recognized June 30, as part of the MML Virtual Conference. Visit RockvilleReports.com/rockville-receives-banner-city-recognition-from-mml-once-more/ to learn more.