A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

2020 has been an unsettling and trying year in Rockville for our residents, businesses, nonprofits and city employees. We are deep in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, with all its terrible health, social and economic impacts on people’s lives. The nation and our community also saw understandably heartfelt protests and soul-searching following the heinous killing in Minneapolis of Mr. George Floyd, during his arrest by police officers there.

In this time of difficulty and self-reflection, we at the city strive to achieve the highest standards of health and safety for our employees and Rockville residents. The information you’ll see within these four pages reflects Rockville’s accomplishments throughout Fiscal Year 2020, which ran from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020.

When everything changed in March due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, we had to close the doors of many city facilities, including City Hall. Throughout this time, our focus as your city government has been to still try to provide you with the excellent services you’ve come to expect.

In response, we’ve created new programming and services, both online and in person. This includes virtual recreation classes; online observances; food drives for seniors; virtual inspections; special curbside parking for food pickup; closing streets to expand outdoor dining; more funding for community agencies serving residents in need of food and housing; and more.

With national and local protests for racial equality, the time is ripe to reflect on what it means to be a diverse and inclusive community. Rockville has embraced that conversation. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” This is a moment for us to re-examine our own attitudes, beliefs and actions with respect to race and social justice.

Rockville’s response to Mr. Floyd’s death included an open letter to the community from Rockville Police Chief Victor Brito, and joint statements by the Mayor and Council strongly condemning Mr. Floyd’s killing. Rockville police also joined the Mayor and Council to support a large peaceful protest in Rockville in June. Police department policies, procedures and accountability measures were reviewed. The department welcomes opportunities to engage with residents, and has offered Fair and Unbiased Policing training, focused on implicit bias, for officers and residents, with more to come.

On behalf of the Mayor and Council, and city staff, I thank you for your passion and support for our community. Feel free to reach out if we can be of service to you, and if you have ideas and suggestions for us. Please accept our sincere best wishes for you and your family.

Rob DiSpirito, Rockville City Manager

FY 2020 saw…

Automated WALK signals: All city-operated traffic signals — 46 of them — are now on a pedestrian-recall mode, which allow the WALK display to come up automatically at each cycle without the need for pushing buttons.

Rockville’s Mayor and Council put the city on a course for zero traffic-related deaths or serious injuries by working with staff to craft the city’s Vision Zero Action Plan. The plan, adopted just after the close of FY20, includes steps to take to create safer streets through policies promoting improved design, traffic law enforcement and education.

Standing for Equality and Justice… Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton in June delivered a statement on behalf of the Mayor and Council, in which they unanimously condemned the police-involved death of George Floyd, following his arrest by Minneapolis police officers. The Mayor and Council stand in solidarity with others across the country seeking to end the injustice of racism. In Rockville, “we celebrate our diversity and we stand for inclusion,” Newton said, reading from the joint statement.

FAIR AND UNBIASED… The Rockville City Police Department offered Fair and Impartial Policing training for the community. The training promotes bias-free behavior in community policing and gives community members and police tools to communicate and work together to make the community safer and more resilient.

For the third year in a row, Rockville scored perfect marks on the Human Rights Campaign’s Municipal Equality Index for the city’s commitment to the health, welfare, safety and equality of its lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community. Rockville scored 100/100, along with Baltimore, Columbia and Frederick, out of the 10 Maryland towns and cities rated on the 2019 scorecard.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: MYLES, FeINBERG, Newton, Pierzchala and Ashton.

(Above) Intersection improvements were completed in Twinbrook to increase pedestrian safety. Work included new sidewalks, bump-outs and crosswalks, and reconfigured intersections at Atlantic Avenue/Stillwell Road and Midway and Aleutian avenues.

FY 2020 saw Rockville voters re-elect Bridget Donnell Newton as mayor in the City of Rockville’s historic Vote by Mail election, which concluded Nov. 5. Four councilmembers were also elected: Monique Ashton, Beryl L. Feinberg, David Myles and Mark Pierzchala.
ROCKVILLE’S FISCAL YEAR 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2020 | City of Rockville Annual Report

FISCAL YEAR 2020 | City of Rockville Annual Report

Page 3

Page 3
FY 2020 saw...

Planning for the Future

A panel of Urban Land Institute experts visited Rockville for two days in July and developed a report of recommendations that will guide ongoing work to enhance the vibrancy of the city’s Town Center.

Rockville Swim and Fitness Center’s Lobby and Locker Room Renovation Project: completed in January;

Reimagining RedGate Park: The Mayor and Council endorsed a project charter; Reimagining RedGate Park. A team of representatives from various city departments was formed to develop a conceptual plan for the use of RedGate with objectives for this major park development project.

John Foreman was selected to head a new customer-focused service center with the mission to improve Rockville’s development review and permitting processes, continuing a project already underway through the Faster, Accountable, Smarter, Transparent (FAST) initiative. The Planning and Development Services department developed draft guidelines and regulations for additions and reconstructions of single-family homes in East Rockville.

STONESTREET CORRIDOR STUDY … The Mayor and Council adopted plans for longer-term improvements to the area of Park Road, and north and south Stonestreet Avenue. A first step involves the Department of Public Works designing streetscape improvements for both North Stonestreet, and the intersection of Park Road and South Stonestreet Avenue.

Zoning Ordinance and Code Amendments: A text amendment for the Mixed-Use Employment Zoning District was adopted in July 2019. In addition, the city’s building code was updated to be consistent with the state building code and regulations.

FY 2020 saw...

A Giving Community

38,953 hours given by 1,167 volunteers to Recreation and Parks programs.

$12,415 donated to the Senior Assistance Fund to serve Rockville seniors, and to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables to support seniors during the pandemic. (The fund raised $11,708 since the end of March, specifically for COVID-19 related needs.)

ROCKVILLE’S GENEROSITY ON DISPLAY DURING 2019 HOLIDAY DRIVE … Generous contributions from more than 240 individuals, businesses and community organizations resulted in $93,149 of food, cash, toys and gift cards for the 2019 Rockville Holiday Drive.

497 households received Thanksgiving food baskets and grocery store gift cards.

96 Rockville seniors were given a Thanksgiving dinner.

182 seniors and households without children received a gift card to a local grocery store.

1,686 toys, books, and games went to 562 children younger than 12.

62 Rockville families—a total of 246 individuals were matched with sponsors who provided gifts tailored to each family’s specific needs through the family sponsorship program.

306 teams received a gift card to a local retailer.

FY 2020 saw...

Support for the Community

The city completed a Cultural Arts Study to identify how the city can better capitalize on arts and cultural assets to improve economic growth and enhance Rockville as an arts destination.

The City of Rockville’s Farmers Market opened for the season in early June, with market rules and regulations and a preordering program to provide for quicker, safer shopping. The market’s opening was rescheduled from mid-May as part of the city’s response to COVID-19.

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. From Aug. 1, until 160 days after the state of emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is lifted, rents may be raised by no more than 2.6%.

FY 2020 saw...

History Celebrated

The final phase of the Lyon Room renovations and the first phase of Mrs. Lyon’s Dressing Room renovations were completed at the Glenview Mansion. These major improvements, made possible through the Glenview Mansion Fund, ensure the historic details and furnishings reflect the 1920s grandeur of the mansion.

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.

DINING AL FRESCO … Gibbs Street was closed between East Middle Lane and Beall Avenue, and East Montgomery Avenue between Maryland Avenue and Helen Heneghan Way, for expanded outdoor dining areas in Town Center to allow outdoor seating for restaurants and to create more opportunities for sidewalk pickup and social distancing during the pandemic.

FY 2020 saw...

Honors and Achievements

Heather Gewandter, stormwater manager, was given the Spotlight Award by the Chesapeake Stormwater Network in recognition of her professional contributions to the advancement of the field of stormwater management in the Chesapeake Bay region.

FY 2020 saw...

Fiscal Responsibility

*Includes revenue collected by county, state and federal government and passed to the city, such as tax duplication, admissions and amusement tax, highway user and grants.

*Includes cable franchise fees, land and building rentals, and interest earnings.

FY 2020 Operating Revenues by Category

Charges for Services 34%

Property Taxes 31%

Non-Departmental* 37%

Mayor & Council/City Clerk 1%

City Attorney 1%

Finance 2%

IT 3%

City Manager 4%

PDS 5%

TOTAL: $936 Million

Fiscal Responsibility

Mayor & Council/City Clerk 1%

City Attorney 1%

Finance 2%

IT 3%

City Manager 4%

PDS 5%

Other Government* 6%

Licenses & Permits 3%

Fines & Forfeitures 3%

Use of Money & Property** 3%

Other Revenues 2%

*Non-departmental expenses support citywide insurance programs, contingency accounts, and capital and debt service costs.

**Includes unearned income, investments, and interest earnings.

FY 2020 Expenditures by Department

Non-Departmental* 37%

Police 9%

Public Works 19%

Rec and Parks 10%

Mayor & Council/City Clerk 1%

City Attorney 1%

Finance 2%

IT 3%

City Manager 4%

PDS 5%

TOTAL: $140 Million

In this report, the city of Rockville includes non-departmental expenses, which include support for citywide insurance programs, contingency accounts, and capital and debt service costs. This information is presented to reflect our commitment to transparency and accountability.

*Includes revenue collected by county, state and federal government and passed to the city, such as tax duplication, admissions and amusement tax, highway user and grants.

**Includes cable franchise fees, land and building rentals, and interest earnings.

FY 2020 saw...

William Smith, a staff member at Lincoln Park Community Center, graduated from the Maryland Parks and Recreation Association Ritch Stevenson Leadership Institute.

Dylan Drudul, senior sediment and erosion inspector, received an Outstanding Young Professional Award from the International Erosion Control Association.

FY 2020 saw...

Fiscal Responsibility

Mayor & Council/City Clerk 1%

City Attorney 1%

Finance 2%

IT 3%

City Manager 4%

PDS 5%

Other Government* 6%

Licenses & Permits 3%

Fines & Forfeitures 3%

Use of Money & Property** 3%

Other Revenues 2%

*Non-departmental expenses support citywide insurance programs, contingency accounts, and capital and debt service costs.