



RockvilleReports

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It's an Election Year for Rockville: What You Need to Know Now About Voting for a Mayor and Council

The City of Rockville will hold a vote-by-mail election in November this year — with a few important changes, including more members of the city council to elect, two Election Day Vote Centers and several additional ballot drop-off locations.

Voters will have the opportunity to elect seven members of the city's elected body — for mayor and six council members — following a unanimous vote Feb. 6 by the Mayor and Council on a resolution to add two seats to the council.

Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters who live within Rockville city limits. All ballots must be received by 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7. Voters will be able to vote by mail, in person at the two Election Day Vote Centers on Nov. 7, or at an election drop box.

If voting by mail, voters can return their ballots in the provided envelope by prepaid mail or by delivering them to a secure ballot drop box.

Voters can cast their ballots at vote centers on Election Day, Nov. 7, at either City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., or Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Drive. The vote centers will be open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. on Election Day only.

Voters will be able to drop off their ballots at boxes inside the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Lincoln Park Community Center, 357



Frederick Ave., and Twinbrook Community and Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway. The boxes will be available during center hours.

In addition to a drop box outside City Hall, voters will be able to drop their ballot at a drop box outside Montrose Community Center, 451 Congressional Lane. Both will be available 24/7, beginning in late September or early October.

Key 2023 Mayor and Council election dates:

- **Monday, May 1:** Candidate information election packet will be available.
- **On or before Friday, Oct. 13:** Ballots mailed to registered voters.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 17:** Deadline to register to vote or update voter registration.
- **Tuesday, Nov. 7:** Election Day. Completed ballots must be received by 8 p.m. in person at City Hall or by mail.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/election or email elections@rockvillemd.gov. ✚



Town Center Master Plan Update to Kick Off with Listening Sessions

The City of Rockville will host four interactive listening sessions to kick off outreach and engagement for the Town Center Master Plan update, which will help guide the area's success in coming decades.

The most recent master plan for Rockville Town Center was adopted in 2001.

Listening sessions are scheduled for:

- 7-9 p.m. Thursday, April 13, Rockville Memorial Library, second-floor meeting room.
- 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, April 19, Rockville Memorial Library, first-floor meeting room.
- 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 22. WebEx virtual meeting.
- 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, April 25. WebEx virtual meeting.

The same material will be covered at all listening sessions, so only one needs to be attended.

Light refreshments and a children's activity area will be available at the in-person sessions.

A 10-minute survey on Town Center is available at engage.rockville.com/towncenter. Survey responses will help guide the direction of zoning,

streetscapes, public infrastructure and other aspects of land use in Town Center.

A master plan is a long-range document that establishes a vision for future growth and development, and makes recommendations for zoning, streetscapes, public infrastructure and other aspects of land use.

Rockville Town Center comprises about 200 acres of the city, generally bounded by properties along Fleet Street to the south, South and North Washington streets along the west, and the Metro/railroad tracks to the east.

The goal of the master plan is to create a cohesive vision for the Town Center area that meets the city's goals regarding climate action, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and racial equity and social justice.

For more information and links to the virtual sessions, visit engagerockville.com/towncenter/news_feed/join-a-kick-off-listening-session.

Sign up at engagerockville.com/towncenter to join the discussion and receive updates about the project. ✚

Rockville Ranked Eighth Most Ethnically Diverse City in U.S.

Rockville has been ranked eighth overall and fourth among small cities in the U.S. for its ethnic diversity, once again placing highly in an annual WalletHub study. More than one-third of Rockville's residents were born outside of the U.S.

Rockville and three other Montgomery County municipalities, Gaithersburg, Germantown and Silver Spring, ranked in the top 10 spots among all cities, of any size, in the entire United States.

"The U.S. today is a melting pot of cultures, thanks to increasing ethnic and racial diversification," WalletHub stated in its release of the study. "If the trend continues, America will be more colorful than ever by 2045, at which point no single ethnic group will constitute the majority in the U.S. for the first time."

Germantown took top billing on the small cities' list of those municipalities with fewer than 100,000 residents. Rockville earned the same high placement among small cities in WalletHub's 2017-2020 studies.

To identify the most ethnically diverse places in America, WalletHub compared more than 500 of the largest U.S. cities across three key metrics. Rockville ranked 36th overall in ethno-racial diversity, ninth overall in linguistic diversity

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Go Green and Save Green With Permit Fee Waivers for Earth Month

Rockville to Waive Fees for Select Home Improvement Permits During April

The City of Rockville is marking Earth Month in April by waiving permit fees for certain environmentally friendly home improvements.

The city will waive all fees assessed by Rockville's Inspection Services Division that are directly associated with the residential installation of solar photovoltaic sys-

tems, electric vehicle charging stations and energy-efficient heating and cooling upgrades, such as heat pumps.

Applications must be submitted by Sunday, April 30 at www.mygovernmentonline.org and must be accepted by city staff by 5 p.m. Monday, May 1.

For more details, visit



www.rockvillemd.gov/permits-inspections or email questions to permits@rockvillemd.gov.

This program is in support of the city's Climate Action Plan, which was approved by the Mayor and Council in 2022. For more about the plan, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/climate. ✚

Puede encontrar esta información en su idioma. Visite RockvilleReports.com y abra el menú de «Seleccione Idioma» de Google Translate, situado en la esquina superior derecha de la página.

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In This Issue...

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- 8 Meet RCPD's Mental Health Specialist**

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

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Life Science Building and Garage



Above: Renderings of a new life science building and parking garage proposed at 2 Research Place, abutting southbound Interstate 270.

Know the Process, Stay Informed

- Check the latest major planning applications, and/or attend an area meeting held by project applicants, to provide input on projects being considered by city boards or commissions. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/developmentwatch.
- Find meeting schedules, agendas and information packets for the Mayor and Council and all city boards and commissions at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.
- Call 240-314-8200 to ask about development projects near you.

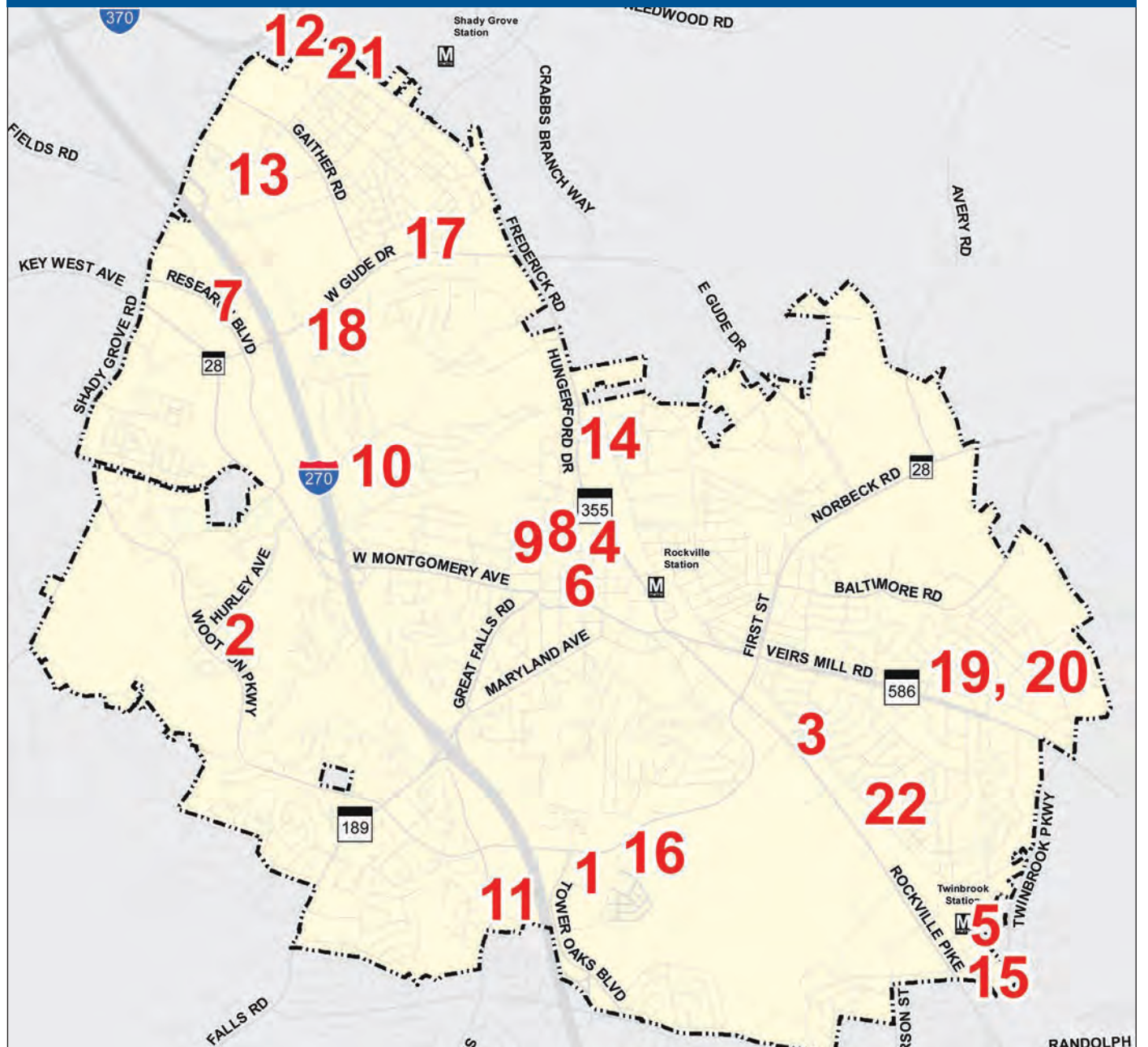
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from environment to our newest volunteer news!

www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters

Major Development Review Applications



Projects in the Pipeline

View the latest map at www.rockvillemd.gov/developmentwatch

Recent Preapplication Submittals

The following projects are under preapplication review:

1. **2200 Tower Oaks Blvd. (Streetscape at Tower Oaks):** Proposal to construct a residential development of 85 townhouses. Case PAM2023-00140.
2. **2401 Wootton Parkway (Rockshire Village):** Proposal to construct a mix of new uses on the property, including up to 31 single-unit detached dwellings, 29 residential townhomes and a building with up to 5,300 square feet of gross floor area for neighborhood-serving retail. Case PAM2023-00145.

Applications Under Review

The following applications are in the development review process:

3. **900 Rockville Pike:** Project plan amendment for a proposed 6,000-square-foot retail center, with approximately 9,000 square feet of office use. Case PJT2018-00010.
4. **460 Hungerford Drive:** Final record plat for one lot to facilitate development of a proposed bank with a drive-thru. Case PLT2022-00593.
5. **1700-1818 Chapman Ave. (Twinbrook Commons):** Level 2 site plan application for a mixed-use building containing 437 multifamily residential units, 5,075 square feet of ground floor retail and a parking garage. Case STP2022-00436.
6. **22 W. Jefferson St.:** Level 2 site plan for a residential condominium development consisting of 12 multifamily-style condo units within the existing 22 W. Jefferson St. building and 17 new townhouse-style condo units, as well as associated site improvements. Case STP2023-00449.
- 107 S. Washington St. (Christ Episcopal Church): Modification of previously approved special exception (SPX2009-00377) to elimi-

nate parcel N425 from the special exception and revise provided parking. Case SPX2023-00403.

7. **2 Research Place:** Level 2 site plan application for a proposal to construct a 200,000-square-foot seven-story life science building and parking garage. Case STP2023-00454.
8. **115 N. Van Buren St.:** Final record plat to consolidate three existing lots into one record lot.
9. **203 Forest Ave.:** Final record plat for consolidation of two lots. Case PLT2023-00616.
10. **850 Nelson St. (Woodley Gardens project):** Site plan and special exception to construct a replacement pool house building. Cases STP2023-00455 & SPX2023-00405.

Recently Approved Applications

The following applications were recently approved and are currently, or soon to be, under construction:

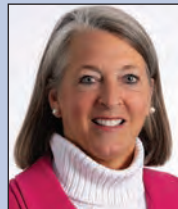
11. **11511 Fortune Terrace (Potomac Woods):** Final record plats 2-9 to implement the mixed-use development approved with STP2020-00399, including townhomes, multifamily, senior housing and a health-fitness facility. Cases PLT2022-00594-PLT2022-00600.
12. **16200 Frederick Road (King Buick redevelopment):** Final record plats 1-10 to implement the residential development approved with STP2022-00433 of 252 townhomes, 118 condominium townhomes and a 2,000-square-foot community building. Cases PLT2022-00601-PLT2022-00610.
13. **805 King Farm Blvd.:** Waiver for height to install additional rooftop equipment related to a new life sciences use in the existing building. Case

WAV2023-00001.

14. **91 Frederick Ave.:** Minor site plan amendment to modify the car wash facility to remove self-service bays, install self-service vacuums and pay stations in the area where the self-service car wash is located, and complete other site revisions. Case STP2022-00441.
15. **975 Rollins Ave. (Flagship Carwash):** Site plan application that proposes demolishing the self-service car wash and changes to the site's parking and circulation. Case STP2022-00446.
16. **One Preserve Parkway:** Waiver restrictions on height exemptions for certain architectural elements to install additional rooftop equipment related to research and development use of existing building. Case WAV2023-00003.
17. **200 Watkins Overlook:** Final record plat for street dedication to Gude Drive. Case PLT2023-00612.
18. **1040-1044 Carnation Drive:** Final record plat to re-subdivide three residential lots and adjust property lines. Case PLT2022-00611.
19. **312 Linthicum St.:** Special exception to expand an existing day care's capacity from eight to 12 children. Case SPX2023-00404.
20. **312 Linthicum St.:** Proposal to expand an existing day care's capacity from eight to 12 children. Case PAM2023-00141.
21. **16100 Frederick Road (King Farm Farmstead):** Proposal to construct a parking lot on the King Farm Farmstead site. Case PAM2022-00136.
22. **2012 Henry Road:** Proposal to establish an accessory apartment unit in the basement level of the existing dwelling. Case PAM2023-00143.

Mayor & Council

mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov



Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton
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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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THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ARE HOLDING HYBRID MEETINGS. The public is welcome to participate in person or virtually, until further notice.

Meetings Schedule: Mondays, April 17 and 24 at 7 p.m. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details.

The April 17 meeting will be preceded by a drop-in session by telephone with Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and Councilmember Mark Pierzchala from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

To participate, sign up by 10 a.m. the day of the drop-in at www.rockvillemd.gov/FormCenter/CityClerk-11/Sign-up-for-Dropin-Meetings-227.

If you wish to submit comments in writing, please email mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov by 10 a.m. on the day of a community forum or public hearing.

Share comments live during community forum. Sign up by calling the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations at 240-314-8280 by 10 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.

Mayor and Council meetings are 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.



Hey, Hey, Have Your Say! Hearing, Survey Provide Final Opportunities for Budget Input

Rockville's Mayor and Council begin wrapping up budget deliberations this month with their final scheduled public hearing and work sessions before the scheduled adoption of the Fiscal Year 2024 budget.

The budget, which covers the fiscal year that begins July 1, is scheduled for adoption on Monday, May 8.

The proposed FY 2024 operating budget of \$156.4 million is a 5.1% increase over the FY 2023 adopted budget. The general fund budget, which supports the largest portion of the operating budget, is \$100.7 million, an 8% increase.

The city's current real property

tax rate of \$0.292 per \$100 of assessed valuation would remain the same for FY24. All residential and commercial property owners pay this tax. Rockville has not increased its property tax rate since 1995.

Find video of the city manager's proposed budget presentation with the Feb. 27 meeting listing at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Offer Your Ideas

- Using the budget survey, in English, simplified Chinese, French, Korean and Spanish at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.
- At a public hearing during the Mayor and Council meeting on Monday, April 17. ✚

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COMPLETE LA ENCUESTA

Presupuesto de la Ciudad de Rockville Para el Año Fiscal 2024

La participación pública en el proceso del presupuestario es de alta prioridad para la Alcaldesa y el Concejo, y el personal de la ciudad. Al llenar la encuesta sobre el presupuesto para el año fiscal 2024, estará proporcionando comentarios valiosos a la Alcaldesa y al Consejo para sus discusiones sobre el presupuesto para el año fiscal 2024.



Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget

Rockville Ranks 8th

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and 24th overall in birthplace diversity.

The city's total population is 67,117, according to the results of the 2020 U.S. Census. Of those,

21.6% are Asian, 16.6% are Hispanic or Latino, and 10.9% are black. More than 45% speak a language other than English at home.

For complete rankings see www.wallethub.com/edu/10264. ✚

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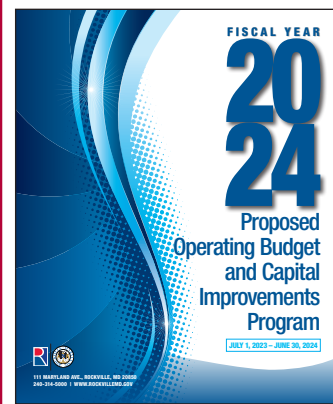


City Hall: 240-314-5000

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.



FY24 BUDGET AT-A-GLANCE CALENDAR

- **Monday, April 17:** Public hearing and work session.
- **Friday, April 21:** Close of budget survey and budget public record.
- **Monday, May 1:** Work session.
- **Monday, May 8:** Adoption of the FY24 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program.
- **Saturday, July 1:** FY24 begins.

Note: Budget calendar dates are subject to change.

For information about how to testify at hearings, find agendas, posted the week before each date at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. Meetings are broadcast on channel 11 on county cable, livestreamed at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11, and available a day after each meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand.

To review the proposed budget, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.

Mayor and Council Work to Protect Renters from Excessive Rent Hikes

In a move to protect renters, the Mayor and Council adopted 5.8% as the Voluntary Rent Guideline for 2023.

The voluntary rent guideline became effective in March. The guideline encourages landlords to hold rent increases to the lowest level possible. The resolution asks landlords to increase rent by no more than 5.8%, or less, if possible.

The voluntary rent guidelines system provides a baseline amount for rent increases that is based on the Bureau of Labor Consumer Price Index for rent of primary residences in the metropolitan region around Washington, D.C.

Questions about the rent guidelines can be directed to the Department of Housing and Community Development's Housing and Neighborhood Services Division at 240-314-8300. For more on Rockville's services for landlords and tenants, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/259/Landlord-Tenant-Complaints. ✚

Get Involved with the City

- **Send an email** to mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov.
- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov or by mail to the Mayor and Council, 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 board and commission meetings will take place virtually. See times and dates, and ways to participate on the city's online calendar: www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.

- **April 12 and 26** Planning Commission 7 p.m. (To participate, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details closer to the date.)

Vacancies

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

- Board of Supervisors of Elections (1)
- Community Policing Advisory Board (1 alt.; 1 youth)
- Planning Commission (2)
- Senior Citizens Commission (3)
- Youth Commission (11)

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

► 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.

LEARN MORE ON ROCKVILLE 11



www.youtube.com/cityofrockville

Connect with us on Social Media.



Baltimore Road Corridor Improvements Near Completion

Construction along Baltimore Road is in its final phase, with the city's contractor eyeing a spring completion for the project.

Over the winter, crews installed the final storm drains, new curb and gutter, and several sidewalk and shared-use path links between Rockville High School and Broadwood Drive.

In late winter, crews made intersection improvements at Avery and Baltimore roads and installed curb, gutter, sidewalk and driveway aprons between Edmonston and Gladstone drives.

Final roadway paving from Edmonston Drive northeast to the city limit near White Gate Road is scheduled to be completed this spring.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/baltimoreroad project to learn more about this long-planned project to improve safety and access along a major connection between the city's east side and Rockville Town Center.

City Seeks Input on Sidewalk Feasibility Studies

The city is holding walking meetings this month offering the opportunity for public input as Rockville considers the feasibility of six proposed sidewalk projects.

Rockville staff and the city's design consultant will conduct "walk the block" public meetings about four proposed projects to fill in gaps in the city's sidewalk network along:

- Frederick Avenue, from Westmore to North Stonestreet avenues.
- Highland Avenue, from Grandin to South Stonestreet avenues.
- Reading Terrace, from Grandin to South Stonestreet avenues.
- Wood Lane, from North Adams to North Washington streets.

Each meeting will discuss the proposed sidewalk's alignment and its associated impacts and will collect public comments for further consideration by the project team. The design consultant will evaluate the sidewalk links, considering costs and impacts of possible alignments.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/advisories for meeting details.

The city will also accept public comments in April on two additional proposed sidewalks. One would be along Monroe Street, from the path from New Mark Esplanade, continuing into Dogwood Park. The other would be along Nelson Street, from the Woodley Gardens Shopping Center to 100 Nelson St. The city will conduct an online review only of these proposed projects, which do not directly impact residential or commercial properties.

As an alternative to attending the meetings, residents are invited to review the plans, at www.rockvillemd.gov/visionzeroprojects, and submit comments by Sunday, April 30 to Andrew Luetkemeier, the city's project manager, at aluetkemeier@rockvillemd.gov.

The sidewalk feasibility studies are being conducted at the Mayor and Council's direction as part of the city's Vision Zero Action Plan. Learn about the plan at www.rockvillemd.gov/visionzero.

Drive Up, Drop Off Unwanted Medication on Drug Take-Back Day

RCPD to Participate in April 22 Collection, Drop Box Is Available Year-Round

The Rockville City Police Department offers a safe, free and anonymous way to dispose of unwanted prescription drugs during National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 22.

In cooperation with the Drug Enforcement Administration, city police will accept leftover — including expired — prescription drugs from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Rockville City Police Station parking lot at 2 W. Montgomery Ave. To make it quick and convenient, officers will be outside with easy drive-up and drop-off

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'Connecting the World' at Public Works Week Equipment Show

Display of the City's Big Trucks Returns to Stepanek Park

Rockville will join the American Public Works Association to celebrate National Public Works Week from Monday, May 22-Friday, May 26.

The highlight of the week

will be the annual Equipment Show from 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 25. This year's show will be held at Mattie J. T. Stepanek Park, 1800 Piccard Drive. Kids —

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ISLANDS IN THE STREETS ... A city contractor completed two median islands on North Washington Street and Beall Avenue in Rockville Town Center in February and, in March, began widening the sidewalk on the southside of East Middle Lane between North Washington Street and Maryland Avenue, as part of the Town Center Road Diets Project. Learn more about the project to make Rockville Town Center safer for pedestrians and bicyclists: Search "Road Diets" at RockvilleReports.com.

April is Flood Awareness Month

Anywhere it can rain, it can flood. With the rainy spring season ahead, it's important to know the risk and be prepared to reduce the impact of potential flooding.

Here are some tips you can follow to be prepared:

• Reduce your risk.

Prepare now to protect your family, home and belongings from flooding. The Federal Emergency Management Agency offers several publications to help you manage flooding risks. Find a few at mailchi.mp/rockvillemd/storm-flood-damage-survey-summer. Find more resources at www.fema.gov/flood-maps/know-your-risk/homeowners.

• Insure your property.

Flood damage isn't covered by standard homeowners insurance policies, and is expensive. An inch of floodwater can cause more than \$25,000

in damage. Talk to your insurance agent about flood insurance or visit floodsmart.gov.

• Report storm flood damage.

Rockville residents or property owners who have experienced flood damage associated with severe weather can help us understand the impact of intense storms on our community. Take the Storm Flood Damage Survey and find additional resources at www.rockvillemd.gov/flooding.

• Take advantage of the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program.

Rockville offers matching reimbursement funds to residents and property owners who make flood protection improvements to their properties. See the article below.

Find "Slow It. Spread It. Sink It!: A Homeowner's Guide to Sustainable Home Drainage" at www.rockvillemd.gov/drainageguide. ✚

Funds Available for Flood Protection

The City of Rockville's Flood Mitigation Assistance Program offers matching reimbursement funds to residents and property owners who make flood protection improvements to their properties.

The matching reimbursement funds will provide up to 50% of the total costs of approved mitigation measures, up to \$5,000. Funds will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Examples of eligible practices include flood-proofing windows, flood-gates, "sandless sandbags,"

battery-powered sump pumps, modifying topography, elevating utilities, flood alert systems and flood-resistant building materials.

Residential and commercial properties, including homeowner associations and condominium associations, can apply. Renters can only apply with documentation of approval from the property owner.

For program guidelines, eligibility requirements and to apply, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/floodassistance. ✚

A Year on, Climate Plan Makes Progress

More than a year on from Rockville's adoption of its first Climate Action Plan, many of the plan's 42 initiatives have made progress, with several action items completed.

The Mayor and Council initiated the plan in January 2022 with the goals of equitably reducing greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change, and improving

community and city resilience to extreme weather. At their March 27 meeting, the Mayor and Council heard an update on progress made during the plan's first year.

Rockville launched its first food scraps compost drop-off facilities at the city's maintenance facility and now at the Rockville Senior Center. (See the article on page 5.)

A pilot flood mitigation assistance program reimbursed 19 households for floodproofing expenses. The city was awarded state and federal funding and technical support to develop a Flood Resiliency Master Plan.

Twelve city fleet vehicles were replaced with electric models. Rockville is also developing an Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan and will partner

again with Montgomery County Energy Connection and Maryland Solar United Neighbors to promote a solar and electric vehicle charger co-op.

Learn more about the Climate Action Plan at www.rockvillemd.gov/climate. Sign up to receive the "Environment and Sustainability News" email newsletter at www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters for updates. ✚



MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ... Now on Rockville 11's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/cityofrockville): See proclamations by the Mayor and Council for Women's History Month and Earth Day; learn more about Black History Month through the eyes of two of Rockville's top members of staff; and learn about zoning with "Zoning 101" and the Planning Commission.

Earth Month and Earth Day, in April — and May!

Earth Day is Saturday, April 22, but Rockville celebrates Earth Month throughout the spring, including with these events blooming in April and May:

Saturday, April 15: Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanups. Stream cleanup sites include:

- Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road, 9:30 a.m.-noon.
- Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway, 9:30-11 a.m.
- Maryvale Park, 812 First St., 10 a.m.-noon.

Student Service Learning hours are available. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required at www.rockvillemd.gov/Adopt-a-Stream.

Tuesday, April 18: Climate Solutions Speaker Series: "Native Plants and Trees for Your Yard." 7-8 p.m. Online. See the article on this page.

Saturday, April 22: Earth Day at Croydon Creek Nature Center. Drop-in activities, while supplies last, including make-and-take crafts, an outdoor scavenger hunt, rain barrel raffle, story time at 9:30 a.m., and a coloring contest. Coloring sheets will be available starting Saturday, April 1. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek for more information.

Saturday, April 22: Earth Day Stream Cleanup, 10 a.m.-noon, at the Winding Rose Tributary behind Julius West Middle School. SSL hours are available. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required at www.rockvillemd.gov/Adopt-a-Stream.

Sunday, April 23: Science Day. Noon-5 p.m. at Montgomery College, Rockville Campus, 51 Mannakee St. See the article on this page.

Tuesday, April 25: Arbor Day Celebration, 10 a.m. at Bayard Rustin Elementary School, 332 W. Edmonston Drive. Join students and the city's Forestry Division for a ceremony and tree planting.

Saturday, April 29: City Nature Challenge, 9-10 a.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center. An annual worldwide event encouraging people in cities to observe nature in their community. Download the iNaturalist app before attending the event. Then, learn how to use the app

from naturalists leading an excursion in the forest preserve to observe wildlife. Register for course #27354 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

During Earth Month: Green permit fee waivers. See the article on page 1.

Saturday, May 6: 21st Annual Spring Festival and Native Plant Sale, 10 a.m.-noon at Croydon Creek Nature Center. Activities include woodland hikes, spring native plant sale, nature games and crafts, and children's entertainment.

Sunday, May 7: Invasive Species Pull, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center. Help remove invasive plant species and improve the Hayes Forest Preserve. SSL hours available. Register for course #27348 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

Saturday, May 20: Kids to Parks Day, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center. Spend time in the Hayes Forest Preserve. Free drop-in activities while supplies last. Learn more at parktrust.org/kids-to-parks-day.

Ongoing Volunteer and Education Opportunities

- **Celebrate Earth Month Year-Round at Croydon Creek Nature Center.** www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek.
- **Weed Warrior Workdays:** www.rockvillemd.gov/weedwarriors.
- **Adopt-A-Stream:** www.rockvillemd.gov/adopt-a-stream.
- **Plog Rockville:** www.rockvillemd.gov/environment.

Solar and EV Charger Co-op Coming Soon. Interested in rooftop solar or electric vehicle charging? Attend upcoming information sessions, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/solar or sign up for the "Environment and Sustainability News" email newsletter, where you can also find seasonal updates on environmental events, volunteer opportunities and climate action news throughout the year.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters and select "Environment and Sustainability."

Find more environmental events at www.rockvillemd.gov/earthmonth. ❀



Stream Science, Snakes, Civil War Medicine at Rockville Science Day

Explore Hands-On Science Exhibits April 23 at Montgomery College

A Rockville tradition returns Sunday, April 23 as Montgomery College hosts the 32nd annual Rockville Science Day.

The free event, from noon-5 p.m. at the college's Rockville campus, 51 Mannakee St., offers an opportunity to experience hands-on science- and technology-related exhibits, activities, games and demonstrations from over 70 local organizations and businesses.

Activities and exhibits include building and launching rockets, telescopes, robots, backyard wildlife, microscopes, snakes, stream science, Civil War medical practice, coding challenges, math puzzles, chemistry in action, electric vehicles, quadcopters, archaeology mini-digs, 3-D printing, brain games, and more.

Student Service Learning hours are available for students 16 and older who help with setup Saturday and with exhibits Sunday. To register an exhibit, offer to volunteer or learn more, visit www.rockvillescience

center.org/rscd.

Can't Wait for Science Day?

The Rockville Science Center sponsors online science presentations the second and third Tuesday of every month. For something a bit more hands-on, the center hosts classes and engaging activities, such as a family chess club. Open discussion periods are held Thursday evenings and STEM Activities Day is the last Saturday of each month. Activities are held in the center's storefront at 36C Maryland Ave. and in the Makerspace at Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave. RSC also offers spring break and summer classes at its Rockville Town Square locations and local schools.

RSC is a nonprofit supported by the generous donations of its members and sponsors, including the City of Rockville. Learn more at www.rockvillesciencecenter.org. ❀

Climate Solutions Speaker Series Presents 'Native Plants and Trees for Your Yard'

The city's Climate Solutions Speaker Series is back with a special Earth Month presentation.

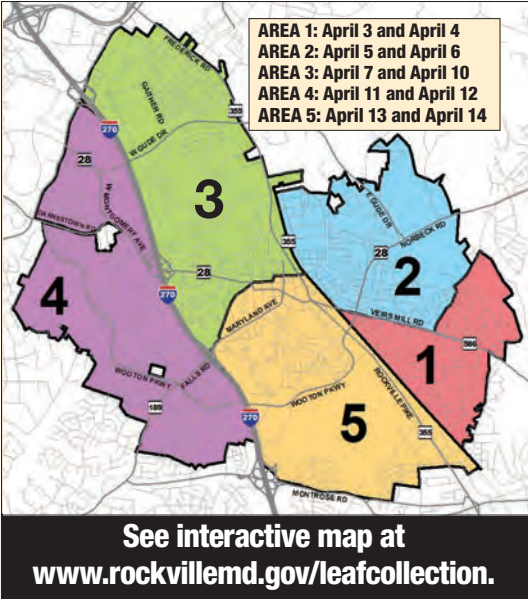
Learn about native plants and trees to beautify your yard and help the environment with "Native Plants and Trees for Your Yard," an online presentation from 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, April 18. Beth Ginter, executive director of the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council, will discuss native plant and tree species for different yard types, where to get native plants, planting tips

and design ideas.

Register at bit.ly/NativePlants2023.

To stay up to date on future sessions as they are announced, subscribe to the city's "Environment and Sustainability News" email newsletter at www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters and check future issues of "Rockville Reports."

To view previous Climate Solutions Speaker Series sessions, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/climate and select "What Can I Do On Climate Change?" ❀



Fast Rake: Spring Leaf Collection Sweeps Through City This Month

The city will vacuum leaves from neighborhood curbs from April 3-14 in five collection areas throughout Rockville.

An interactive map at www.rockvillemd.gov/leafcollection allows residents to input their address and learn when their leaves will be collected. Unlike the fall leaf collection, which has two collection rounds, city crews make only one pass to collect leaves in spring.

Rake leaves next to, but out of, roadways, gutters and bike lanes, and away from parked vehicles. Leaves should be raked by 6 a.m. on the first day of their collection period, but no earlier than one week before the collection dates to avoid grass damage or fire hazards. Remove sticks and other objects from leaf piles. Avoid parking near leaf piles or other vehicles.

After the collection period ends, use biodegradable paper lawn bags or 32-gallon trash cans (without plastic garbage bags) to set leaves out on your trash and recycling collection day. Use alternative disposal methods such as mulching or composting. Do not dump leaves, grass clippings or other yard waste into storm drains, along stream banks or directly into streams, where they can cause blockages that contribute to localized flooding or release nutrients that lead to fish kills.

City Opens Second Food Scraps Compost Drop-Off at Senior Center

The City of Rockville now offers residents two free food scrap drop-off sites to make composting easy, keep valuable materials out of landfills and reduce excessive greenhouse gas emissions:

- Rockville Senior Center at 1150 Carnation Drive.
- Maintenance Complex at 14625 Rothgeb Drive.

Food scraps will be picked up weekly by a commercial contractor and delivered to the Prince George's County Organic Compost Facility.

How To Use the Drop-Off

1. Place food scraps in a container (empty coffee containers with sealing lids are great for this). Be sure to remove any plastic or other trash.
2. Bring full containers and empty them into the designated green bins at one of the Food Scraps Compost Drop-Offs. Follow the signs when you arrive. The sites are accessible 24/7 and the service is free of charge.
3. Rinse container and repeat.

Learn more about the food scraps drop-off and frequently asked questions at www.rockvillemd.gov/foodscraps.

Welcome Wildlife With Backyard Habitats for Climate Resiliency

Local wildlife like birds, butterflies, salamanders and bees rely on native plant communities for habitat.

But habitat loss and fragmentation due to development, non-native invasive species,

continued on pg. 7...



READ ALL ABOUT IT! ... IN YOUR INBOX ... Sign up for the city's many email newsletters, featuring weekly roundups of city news and events, regular updates about arts and culture, planning and development, the environment and sustainability, and volunteering, and news from our nature, senior, and swim and fitness centers. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters.

Hometown Holidays Music Fest to Return to RedGate Park

Save the Date for Memorial Day Weekend

Mark your calendars for the Hometown Holidays Music Fest at RedGate Park.

The free festival at the city's newest park, at 14500 Avery Road, will feature two stages of entertainment by local, regional and national/international acts, a Taste of Rockville from local restaurants, and activities for kids, from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, May 27 and Sunday, May 28.

The city will operate a free shuttle service to RedGate Park on both days of the festival, running every 20 minutes, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., from Monroe Street, between East Montgomery Avenue and Middle Lane.

There will be no shortage of musical acts, including performances by The Nighthawks, Capital Effect, The JoGo Project, Cole Larravide, and Ocho De Bastos. Other entertainment will include kids music by Groovy Nate and an animal show by Ferrets and Friends.

Kick off your shoes and kick off summer with your feet in the sand at two sand pits, join a game of cornhole, or take a morning yoga class with Thrive Yoga from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Sunday.

Find more details, as they are announced, at www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH and "City of Rockville Hometown Holidays" on Facebook.

Find information about the city's 79th annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, May 29, in Rockville Town Center, at www.rockvillemd.gov/memorialday.

Veterans and Military Members Wanted for City Ceremonies

Rockville's annual Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies each include a member of the military as a featured speaker.

Rockville and Montgomery County residents who have retired from, or currently serve in, the United States military are eligible to take part in the ceremonies. The Memorial Day ceremony will be held Monday, May 29. The Veterans Day ceremony will be held Saturday, Nov. 11.

Volunteer speakers must be comfortable speaking in public and must prepare a five- to seven-minute speech about their experiences in the armed forces, including what it means to serve and to honor those who have served.

Contact Cristina Willis at 240-314-8610 or cwillis@rockvillemd.gov to participate or learn more.

For video of past ceremonies, search "Memorial Day Ceremony" or "Veterans Day Ceremony" at youtube.com/cityofrockville.

Register Now for Bike to Work Day in May

Trade your gas pedal for bicycle pedals on Bike to Work Day, Friday, May 19.

Registration is now open for all 14 Montgomery County pit stops, including stops at Dawson's Market in Rockville Town Square and — new this year — at Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Drive. Pit stops will have free snacks, beverages and bicycling giveaways while supplies last, and free T-shirts for the first 15,000 people in the Washington metropolitan region to register and stop by a pit stop. You don't even need to be biking to work to participate. And if you're working from home that Friday, feel free to take a leisurely morning bike ride around the neighborhood before you start the workday.

Visit biketoworkmetrodc.org for registration, a list of pit stop locations and more information.

Rockville's YouTube channel has a series of safety tips for bicyclists. Visit youtube.com/cityofrockville and search for "bike safety."

Learn more about bicycling in Rockville at www.rockvillemd.gov/bicycling and www.rockvillemd.gov/rbac.

Alzheimer's Warning Signs and Healthy Brain and Body: This Month at the Senior Center

Stay healthy and informed with free seminars from the Rockville Senior Center in April.

Register with the course number at www.rockville.md.gov/registration. Learn about 60-plus programs, courses, activities and services at www.rockville.md.gov/seniorcenter or by calling 240-314-8800. See the "Adults 60+" recreation guide at www.rockvillemd.gov/life for more information.

Activities are free, in person and held 1-2 p.m., except where noted.

10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's: Understand the difference between normal aging and when symptoms reveal a larger problem. Presented by the Alzheimer's Association.

Register with course #27357. Tuesday, April 4. Hybrid.

Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body: Tips from the Latest Research. The latest research provides insights into lifestyle choices that could help keep brain and body healthy while aging. Presented by the Alzheimer's Association.

Register with course #27358. Tuesday, April 11. Hybrid.

Stress Reduction/Meditation: Focus, relax and come to a more peaceful sense of being, with time for both meditation and discussion.

Betty Figlure has taught meditation, guided imagery and stress-reduction classes

for more than 30 years.

Register with course #27273. Mondays, April 10-June 12. \$30 M/\$40 NM. Hybrid.

Better Breather's Club: Educational presentations on relevant topics about lung disease and respiratory issues. The group shares their own tips and experiences. Facilitated by American Lung Association instructor Kerri Donnelly, director of business development/community relations for Marquis Health Services, Collingwood Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center.

Meets on third Thursdays. Register with course #27271. Thursday, April 20.

Talk to a Physical Therapist: In pain or have questions for a physical therapist? Talk to Dr. Carlos Martinez from CAM Physical Therapy, who has more than 35 years of experience treating patients with pain, as well as before and after surgery.

Call Betty at 240-314-8803 to schedule a free 20-minute consultation on Wednesday, April 26 or Wednesday, June 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Head and Neck Surgery: An informative presentation from Dr. Deepa Galaiya, assistant professor of otolaryngology — head and neck surgery, of Johns Hopkins Medicine.

Register with course #27293. Thursday, April 27. Online. ✚



This Month, at the F. Scott Theater and Glenview Mansion

Rockville Little Theatre Presents "Stick Fly"

8 p.m. April 28 and 29 and May 5 and 6; 2 p.m. April 30 and May 7.

Sibling rivalries and parental expectations come to a head as family secrets emerge during a weekend away that becomes more "interrogation" than "relaxation" in this witty and moving rollercoaster of a family comedy-drama.

Playwright Lydia R. Diamond ("Smart People") brings her gift for sharp dialogue, complex characters and relevant themes to the stage with this timely look at African-American elite aristocracy, social assumptions and family dynamics.

Note that this production contains the use strong language and racial slurs, the depiction of drug use and a moment of violence.

Tickets are \$22; \$20 for students and seniors.

Group pricing available. Call the box office at 240-

314-8690 for more information or visit fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/StickFly.

Rockville Concert Band Presents "A John Philip Sousa Tribute"

3 p.m. Sunday, April 2.

Music from the biggest name ever in the wind-band world in the U.S., conducted by Juan Gallastegui, music director.

No tickets are required, but a \$5 donation is suggested. Find out more at rockvilleconcertband.org.

Glenview Mansion Art Gallery Presents the Maryland Pastel Society

Meet the artists behind "The Language of Pastel," 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, April 30.

The exhibit will be on display April 3-May 12.

The Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible gallery, on the second floor of Glenview Mansion, is open 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and closed on official city holidays. ✚



NAME-CHANGE PLAQUE AT ROCKVILLE MEMORIAL LIBRARY RECOGNIZES FALLEN WAR HEROES ... A plaque recently dedicated at the Rockville Memorial Library recognizes the name change from the original Rockville Library.

The name change for the branch of the Montgomery County Public Libraries system was instituted in 2010 at the request of Gold Star families — those who have lost family members in U.S. military conflicts — and the County Commission on Veterans Affairs.

The plaque is located in the first-floor lobby, next to a digital display honoring county residents killed in action from World War I onward.

"The Rockville Memorial Library is one of the finest libraries in our system, and having it named in memory of county residents killed in action is an appropriate tribute," County Executive Marc Elrich said.



WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING THIS MONTH? April is not only the month of April Fools (watch out for pranksters), it's the month for awareness of sexual assault, child abuse, internships, distracted driving, Parkinson's disease and autism. It's also a month to appreciate volunteers, couples, jazz, poetry, pecans and Earth. (See page 5 for Earth Month activities.)

April CALENDAR

FACILITIES LEGEND:

- CC** Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Rd., 240-314-8770.
- GM** Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8660.
- FSF** F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8690.
- LP** Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Ave., 240-314-8780.

- CH** Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., 240-314-5000.
- SR** Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Dr., 240-314-8800.
- SFB** Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, 355 Martins Lane, 240-314-8750.
- TF** Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Dr., 240-314-8840.
- TC** Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., 240-314-8830.

- V** Virtual Program/Offering
- f** Facebook Live Event
- 🌍** Earth Month Event



1 **MURDER AT THE MANSION PRESENTS “MURDER BY THE BOOK”** 8-10 p.m. **GM**

1 **CROYDON CREEK CAMPFIRE: STAR PARTY** Gather around the campfire with your friends for stories, snacks and more. An adult must accompany children and all participants must register. Registration is required. Ages 8 and older. Register with course #27349. \$6 R/\$7 NR. 8:15-9:15 p.m. **CC**

2 **ROCKVILLE CONCERT BAND PRESENTS “A JOHN PHILIP SOUSA TRIBUTE”** See article on page 6. Free. 3-4 p.m. **FSF**

4 **10 WARNING SIGNS OF ALZHEIMER’S** See the article on page 6. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

6,22 **LITTLE EXPLORERS** Take time with your little one to go exploring with a naturalist. Hiking, games and hands-on learning are part of the fun. Ages 2-5. \$8 R/\$10 NR. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

6 **WISDOM FOR AGING WELL** A panel of experts will share insights and resources on long-term care options, age-in-place options, move managers, homecare making decisions, wills and planning, senior living options, and selling a home. Register with course #27446. Free. 10-11:30 a.m. Hybrid. **SR**

6 **HOW TO STAY INFORMED BUT NOT OVERLOADED** Twenty-four-hour cycles expose us to news every hour of the day. How much is enough or too much? Discuss guidelines for a healthy balance. Register with course #27028. \$6 M/\$9 NM. 11 a.m.-noon. **SR**

6 **FITNESS WORKSHOP: IT’S ALL ABOUT GOOD POSTURE** Maintaining good posture can prevent pain, injuries and other health issues. Register with course #26963. \$15. 1:30-2:45 p.m. Hybrid. **SR**

8 **HIKE WITH A NATURALIST: WOOTTONS MILL PARK** Join a Croydon Creek Nature Center naturalist on an early morning hike to explore different parks in Rockville and discover flora and fauna of our city. Hikes last about an hour and could be up to 1 mile. Trail quality may vary and bathroom access may be limited. Ages 18 and older. Register with course #27351. \$5 R/\$6 NR. 8-9 a.m. Woottons Mill Park, 472 Hurley Ave.

11 **V** **HEALTHY LIVING FOR YOUR BRAIN AND BODY: TIPS FROM THE LATEST RESEARCH** See the article on page 6. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

12 **ELECTRIFY EVERYTHING** Montgomery County Residential Energy program manager Larissa Johnson shares four ways to electrify your home more efficiently. Register with course #27311. Free. 10-11 a.m. **SR**

13,19,22,25 **TOWN CENTER MASTER PLAN KICKOFF LISTENING SESSIONS** See article on page 1. 7-9 p.m. Virtual and in person at Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave.

13 **THINKING OF MAKING SOME CHANGES TO YOUR HOME?** Learn which improvements and updates will provide the most bang for your buck. Register with course #27391. Hybrid. 10-11:30 a.m. **SR**

13 **FASHION SHOW WITH TAYLOR MARIE** “Project Runway,” without the drama and sewing disasters. The latest fashions in sizes and creative accessories for all. Light refreshments will be served. Register with course #27046. \$5 M/\$7 NM. 1-3 p.m. **SR**

14 **DIM THE LIGHTS FOR INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK** International Dark Sky Week is held during the week of the new moon in April, when people worldwide turn off lights to observe the night sky without light pollution. Discuss light pollution, its consequences and how to help. Register with course #26994. Free/\$4 NM. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

15 **ROCKVILLE SKATE JAM** A day filled with fun activities, including morning yoga, skating competitions, skate demos, building your own skateboard, food and more. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Rockville Skate Park, 355 Martins Lane.

15 **ANNUAL POTOMAC RIVER WATERSHED CLEANUP** See article on page 5. 9:30 a.m.-noon. Various locations.

16 **ANIMAL CARE 101** Take a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to care for the animal ambassadors at Croydon Creek Nature Center. Learn the ins and outs of their diets, housing requirements and enrichment activities, and have a chance to get all of your questions answered about the animals that call the nature center home. Registration required with course #27356. Ages 11 and older. \$10 R/\$12 NR. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. **CC**

18 **V** **NATIVE PLANTS AND TREES FOR YOUR YARD** See article on page 5. Free. 7-8 p.m.

20 **ROCKVILLE MEANS BUSINESS** Virtual or in person at Glenview Mansion. See ad on page 8. 9 a.m.-noon. **GM**

22 **EARTH DAY CELEBRATION** Celebrate Earth Day at Croydon Creek Nature Center! Take part in a coloring contest, enjoy a free nature craft, enter to win a rain barrel (city residents only) and explore the outdoors on your own. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. **CC**

22 **EARTH DAY STREAM CLEANUP** See article on page 5. 10 a.m.-noon. Winding Rose Tributary behind Julius West Middle School, 651 Great Falls Road.

23 **ROCKVILLE SCIENCE DAY** See article on page 5. Noon-5 p.m. Montgomery College, Rockville Campus, 51 Mannakee Street.

27 **HEAD AND NECK SURGERY** See article on page 6. 1-2 p.m. Hybrid. **SR**

27 **V** **VIRTUAL FORUM ON PUBLIC SAFETY** See ad on page 8. 7 p.m.

28-30 **ROCKVILLE LITTLE THEATRE PRESENTS “STICK FLY”** See article on page 6. **FSF**

29 **CITY NATURE CHALLENGE** See article on page 5. 9-10 a.m. **CC**

30 **GLENVIEW MANSION ART GALLERY PRESENTS MEET THE ARTISTS: MARYLAND PASTEL SOCIETY** See the article on page 6. 1:30-3:30 p.m. **GM**

30 **CROYDON CREEK CAMPFIRE: ASK A NATURALIST** Gather around the campfire with friends for stories, snacks and more. An adult must accompany children and all participants must register with course #27350. Ages 5 and older. \$6 R/\$7 NR. 2-3 p.m. **CC**

R = Residents • NR = Nonresidents • M = Member • NM = Nonmember

FOR MORE INFO AND UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTINGS: WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/CALENDAR

Drug Take-Back Day

continued from pg. 4...

access, so there is no need to get out of your vehicle.

Illicit drugs, liquids, needles, sharps or syringes cannot be accepted, only pills or patches. All returned medications will be destroyed by the DEA.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a convenient and responsible means of disposal, keeping prescription drugs from potentially polluting our drinking water, while educating the public about the potential for abuse or theft of these medications.

During the most recent national collection in October, 4,340 law enforcement agencies collected 647,163 pounds — 324 tons — of unwanted prescription drugs. All-time, the programs has collected 8,318 tons over 23 national collec-

tion dates. Learn more at www.dea.gov.

For more information about the city’s take-back, contact Cpl. Ronnie Crowe at 240-314-8974 or rcrowe@rockvillemd.gov.

Residents can now also safely dispose of unused, unwanted or expired medication, with no questions asked, in a new prescription drug drop box that is available to the public 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in the front lobby of the Rockville City Police Station. For more information, visit RockvilleReports.com/prescription-drug-drop-box-debuts-at-rockville-city-police-station. ✦

Backyard Habitat for Climate Resiliency

continued from pg. 5...

pollution and climate change mean wildlife is struggling.

Rockville property owners can help wildlife, take action to counter climate

change and earn National Wildlife Federation certification by creating wildlife-friendly landscapes that incorporate habitat elements in their yards or grounds.

Certified wildlife habitats must provide food, water, cover and places for wildlife to raise young. The program encourages sustainable gardening practices like using native plants, reducing pesticide and fertilizer use, removing non-native invasive plants, and composting.

Certified habitats help create corridors for wildlife to thrive, increase biodiversity and build climate resilient landscapes throughout the community.

In 2016, Rockville was recognized by the National Wildlife Federation as the 88th certified Community Wildlife Habitat in the United States. To find resources and learn more about earning certification, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/backyardhabitats. ✦

Take an Insider Look Into Rockville Government

The Rockville City Academy returns in May, offering members of the community an opportunity to learn how Rockville operates.

In-person sessions will be held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., 7 p.m. Thursday, May 4 and Tuesday, May 9, and 9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 13; and at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 11 at the Rockville City Police Station, 2 W. Montgomery Ave.

Registration is open through Friday, April 22 at www.rockvillemd.gov/academy. Spaces are limited. Participants must be 16 or older. Student Service Learning hours are available.

For more information, contact Hjarman Cordero at hcordero@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8344. ✦

Performers and Sponsors Wanted for Rockville Pride

Rockville is seeking performers and sponsors to help celebrate its LGBTQ community during the seventh annual Rockville Pride festival.

Hosted by the city's Human Rights Commission, Rockville Pride will be held in Rockville Town Square Park from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, June 24.

Interested in performing or becoming a sponsor? Contact Tyree Davis IV by 5 p.m. Friday, April 14 at 240-314-8112 or tdavis4@rockvillemd.gov.

Find more information about Pride, as details become available, at www.rockvillemd.gov/pride.

Public Works Week

continued from pg. 4...

and kids at heart – will be able to climb into the operator's seat of some of the big trucks used by the city's Department of Public Works.

The free show includes public works displays, demonstrations, balloons, popcorn, coloring books and other giveaways, and the chance to meet some of the public works employees who provide the important services that keep Rockville running. It features exhibits on recycling and refuse, environmental management, the city's water treatment plant, water and sewer operations, and stormwater management. School and daycare groups are welcome.

APWA first sponsored National Public Works Week in 1960. Today, more than 30,000 APWA members in the U.S. and Canada use the week to energize and educate the public about the important contributions of public works, including planning, building, managing and operating infrastructure and services in our communities.

This year's Public Works Week theme, "Connecting the World Through Public Works," highlights the way public works professionals connect us physically, through infrastructure, and inspirationally, through service to their communities, whether as first responders or daily workers carrying out their duties with pride. Follow the celebration on Facebook and Twitter at #NPWW and #ConnectingTheWorldThroughPW.

Rockville's Department of Public Works provides water, wastewater, stormwater, streets, recycling and trash, transportation, fleet services, engineering, and environmental and right-of-way management.

To learn more about Rockville's Department of Public Works and its celebration of National Public Works Week, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/publicworks or call 240-314-8500. ✚

Synthetic pesticides cannot be used on lawns in Montgomery County – IT'S THE LAW.

Por ley, en el Condado de Montgomery está prohibido usar pesticidas sintéticos en el césped.

MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/Lawns

NO WEED & FEED ON LAWN

No productos de "weed & feed" en el césped.



Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

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

Be a Part of the Public Safety Conversation

Share Your Questions

Share Your Concerns

THE CITY OF ROCKVILLE INVITES YOU TO A

VIRTUAL FORUM ON PUBLIC SAFETY IN ROCKVILLE

Thursday, April 27 at 7 p.m.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/police on April 27 to join this online forum.

For more information, email publicsafety@rockvillemd.gov.

Rockville MEANS BUSINESS

Thursday, April 20
9 a.m.-noon
(DOORS OPEN AT 8:30 A.M.)

Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park
603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville, MD 20851
Ample free parking available

Rockville's Procurement Division is hosting this event to share information about doing business with city government.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Minority - female - disabled - or veteran-owned businesses are especially encouraged to attend.

Seats are limited. For more information and to register, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/procurement or scan the QR code.

Now Hiring ROCKVILLE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
Great Benefits. A Great Reputation.

- \$62,311 starting salary + \$6,000 hiring bonus OR
- \$70,036 lateral/certified starting salary + \$10,000 hiring bonus
- Take-home vehicle
- program: up to 35 air miles
- Bilingual pay stipend: \$3,120 annually
- 25-year pension + other retirement compensation
- Tuition reimbursement program
- Paid holidays + sick and vacation leave
- Medical, dental and life insurance plans

ACCEPTING APPLICANTS: JOINRCPD.COM

City Manager: Rob DiSpirito
Director of Communication: Katherine Kirk-Dantzler
Assist. Director of Communication: Sean Sedam
Public Information Specialist: Cliff Cumber

Web and Digital Manager: Nick Kanary
Graphics and Printing: Sylvia England, Eric Ferrell, Lori Russler
Rockville II: Hagop Balekjian, Craig Buchanan, Adrian Zlotescu
Social Media and Digital Engagement: Becca Brown

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BACK IN THE DAY ... The April 20, 1989, issue of "Rockville Reports" found Rockville joining then-Gov. William Donald Schaefer in efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. A message from Gov. Schaefer, relayed in an article in that issue, said in part: "Help us to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay by realizing that storm drains are not trash cans. Everything that goes in ... goes out ... eventually to the Chesapeake Bay."

Meet a Rockville Employee: Beth Loftus

Beth Loftus is the Rockville City Police Department's new mental health specialist. She started in her newly created role on March 13 in an office at the police station on West Montgomery Avenue. We asked her a few questions to get to know her better and learn more about her new role.



Beth Loftus, mental health specialist.

You have an important job as part of the city's — and police department's — new mental health initiative. Tell us more about it.

As RCPD's first mental health specialist, I am assigned to the Special Operations Division. My role is to serve as a resource when police officers encounter people in the community with mental health issues. That includes assisting officers in identifying how to best serve individuals and families, and connect them with resources provided by the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services.

Where were you before coming to work for the City of Rockville?

For the past 10 years, I have been a clinical therapist at the Montgomery County Crisis Center on Piccard Drive. I functioned in a variety of capacities and assisted individuals and families with, among other things, homelessness, domestic violence, Montgomery County Public Schools school referrals and mental health evaluations.

I was a member of the Montgomery County Mobile Crisis Team, which provides a mental health professional 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to partner with police, when necessary, in responding to psychiatric emergencies. The team provides crisis evaluation and recommends treatment and resources.

I also serve as a crisis intervention instructor for the Montgomery County Crisis Intervention Training program, educating law enforcement about mental health issues. (Editor's note: Beth was named the Montgomery County Crisis Intervention Instructor of the Year in 2019.)

What did you study to be able to do what you do?

I have a bachelor's degree in psychology, with a minor in sociology, from Catholic University and earned a master's in clinical counseling and a post-master's certificate in play therapy from John Hopkins University. In the past 10-plus years, my focus has been in training around crisis intervention, suicide prevention and de-escalation. I continue to educate myself to stay current with best practices and updated research.

Anything else we should know?

I am a Montgomery County native and am invested in providing mental health services and resources to the Rockville community. I am excited about this new opportunity to partner with RCPD and increase access to much needed mental health resources. I look forward to being a part of this new initiative and watching it grow. ✚