



RockvilleReports

APRIL 2024 • VOL. 69 #4



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RCPD's Community Policing Shows Results as Crime Rates Decline

The Rockville City Police Department's commitment to community policing resulted in reduced crime rates for 2023, RCPD Chief Victor V. Brito told the Mayor and Council in presenting a crime report with data that contrasts with that of other municipalities across the country.

While criminality has risen locally, regionally and nationally since 2020, "Virtually all of our data and all of our crime has been down in the last year," Brito said in giving an overview of the report to the Mayor and Council on Feb. 26. "And that's not through happenstance or reverse osmosis. That's through the hard work and selfless dedication of the men and women of the Rockville City Police Department."

Each year, the department prepares a crime report under the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System.

Overall, between 2022 and 2023, crimes against people, which include homicides, assaults and sex offenses, decreased 10.6%, from 501 offenses in 2022 to 448 offenses in 2023.

Crimes against property, including burglaries, robberies, thefts and vandalism, increased by 1.7% (from 1,831 to 1,862). While the number of carjackings is rising locally, regionally and nationally, Rockville saw a 68% decrease, from eight in 2022 to

three in 2023.

Crimes against society, including drugs, prostitution and weapons offenses, decreased 28.7%, from 129 to 92, including a 39.8% decrease in drug/narcotic violations.

RCPD responded to almost 70% of the 25,139 calls for service in the city in 2023, alongside the Montgomery County Police Department's First District Station and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

Recent changes could impact these numbers. The Montgomery County Department of Police's recent decision to redeploy personnel assigned to the county's First District to other areas of Montgomery County has led to an increase in the number service calls handled by RCPD officers. RCPD responded to 88% of the calls within the city limits in January 2024, versus 71% of calls during the same period in January 2018, a pre-pandemic period used for comparison.

Find video of the presentation to the Mayor and Council with the Feb. 26 meeting listing at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

The report will be included in an annual report published by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments this summer. Find it when it is posted this spring at www.rockvillemd.gov/police.

Revitalizing Recreation: The Benefits of Rockville's Pool Renovation Project

One of summer's most popular features — the outside recreation pool at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center — will be transformed into a state-of-the-art swimming experience in time for 2025's pool season.

The project will involve a complete renovation and re-configuration of the outdoor recreation pool areas, including improvements to accessibility, and modernized amenities and infrastructure that will provide exciting new recreational features and pools for swimmers of all ages and abilities.

Bid submissions from potential contractors are due Wednesday, April 10. Construction is expected to begin in mid-August and last through May 2025. Interested bidders can get more information at www.rockvillemd.gov/bids.aspx.

To accommodate the construction, the outdoor recreation pool will close early for the summer 2024 season, around Friday, Aug. 16. Other areas of the complex, in-



A rendering of the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center outdoor pool renovation.

cluding the outdoor fitness pool, indoor pools and fitness room are planned to remain open throughout the construction.

Note that all schedules are tentative and the facility may be impacted by minor interruptions during the upgrade process.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/rsfc renovations for a layout of the proposed renovations, along with examples of the renovated pool's amenities.

For updates, schedules and other information about the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, sign up for the facility's email newsletter at www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenteralerts.

Climate Action Plan Makes Progress in Second Year

Rockville is making progress on many of the 42 initiatives in the city's first Climate Action Plan, with several action items completed and other efforts well underway.

The Mayor and Council adopted the plan in January 2022 with the goal of equitably reducing greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change and improving community resilience to extreme weather. City staff will provide a progress report during the Mayor and Council meeting on Monday, April 29. Achievements in the 2023 report include:

- More than \$1 million in grants and rebates awarded to the city to support light-emitting diode (LED) streetlight conversions, facility energy upgrades, solar canopies, flood resiliency master planning and a tree planting project at RedGate Park.
- Twelve more vehicles in the city fleet converted to electric or hybrid models.
- The opening of the city's second food waste compost drop-off sta-

tion, doubling collection capacity. The drop-off stations, at the Rockville Senior Center at 1150 Carnation Drive and the city's maintenance facility at 14635 Rothgeb Drive, collected 97 tons of food scraps for composting.

- Launching the Stormwater Incentive Program, which included partnering with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to expand the RainScapes Rebates program and launch a competitive grants program for outreach and restoration projects.
- Reimbursing \$99,148 through the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program to residents who made flood protection improvements to their properties.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/climate for more, including the first Climate Action Plan Progress Report. Get email updates when the 2023 progress report is available and learn what you can do to take climate action: Sign up for the "Environment and Sustainability News" email newsletter at www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters.

Chesnutt to Retire After Decade as Head of Rockville Rec and Parks

After more than a decade at the helm of Rockville's Department of Recreation and Parks



as director, Tim Chesnutt has announced he will retire Wednesday, May 15.

During his service, Chesnutt oversaw the first dedicated pickleball-only courts in Montgomery County at Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park, as well as a new concrete skate park at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, the splash pad at Maryvale Park, locker room improvements at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, and Americans with Disability Act improvements at the Rockville Senior Center, F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Glenview Mansion.

Also among those numerous achievements, Chesnutt presided over plans to re-envision the future of a former 130-acre golf course into the RedGate Park and Arboretum Master Plan.

Chesnutt's contribution to RedGate planning "will transform the former golf course into a significant recreation amenity for the city and surrounding area," acting City Manager Craig Simoneau noted in an email announcing Chesnutt's retirement.

continued on pg. 3...



IT'S A LOCK — NOT A STEAL! ... With vehicle theft on the rise, the Rockville City Police Department gave away 120 steering wheel locks to Rockville residents on Saturday, March 23 at the RCPD station. RCPD made a request to Hyundai Motor Company to provide the locks, which can be used with all vehicle makes and models. Hyundai and Kia models have accounted for 74% of all vehicle thefts reported in the City of Rockville since January. RCPD will request additional locks to distribute. Follow the Rockville City Police Department on social media for updates when additional locks are available.

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In This Issue...

- 2 Development Watch**
- 3 Twinbrook Bridge Receives Federal Grant**
- 3 Last Call for Comments on FY25 Budget**
- 6 Reflections, Gala and Murder at the Civic Center**

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**12501 Ardennes Ave.:
New Residential Project Planned**

A new residential project is under review at a site that has been used exclusively for offices in the past.

Located at 12501 Ardennes Ave., near the city's southeast boundary in the Twinbrook neighborhood, the redevelopment envisions converting the existing office building into a 181-unit residential multifamily building. The submitted site plan includes construction of three additional stories to provide the proposed units and will utilize an existing underground parking garage below the building for residents' use.

The site plan application will be considered by the Planning Commission at a future meeting.



**2200 Tower Oaks Blvd.:
New Residential Project Planned**

The Mayor and Council has preliminary approved a new residential development at 2200 Tower Oaks Blvd., just south of its intersection with Wootton Parkway.

The adopted project plan envisions a townhome community of 82 units, which will include both front and rear-loaded unit types and a central open-space plaza.

The project will now move forward for review of a site plan application, which will be considered by the Planning Commission at a future date.

**New Attached Accessory Dwelling Unit
Law to Go Into Effect in April**

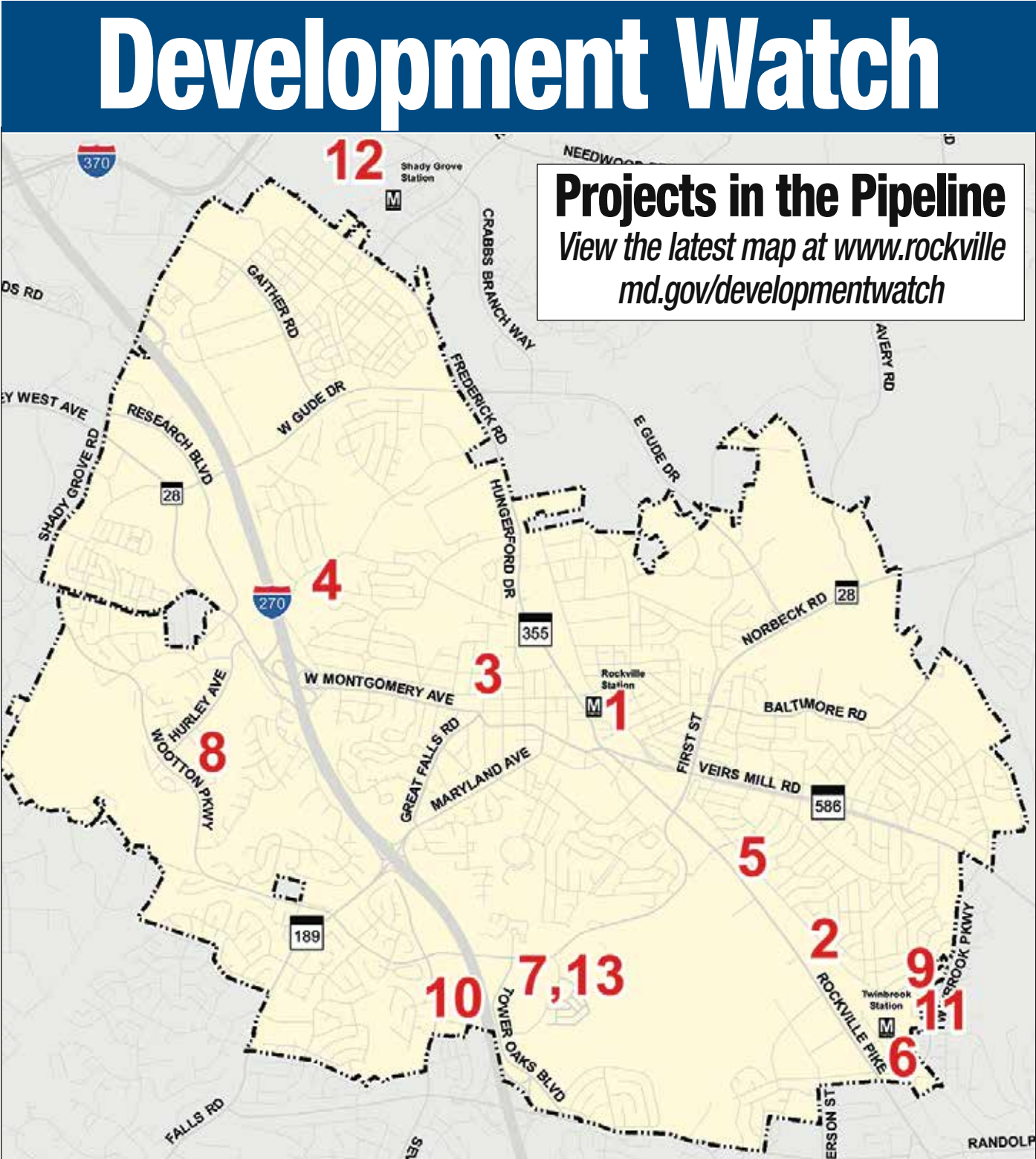
Legislation allowing the conditional use of attached accessory units in the City of Rockville will go into effect Tuesday, April 9, following passage of a zoning text amendment by the Mayor and Council in October.

Attached accessory dwelling units, or attached ADUs, are secondary dwellings either inside, or attached to, single-family homes. Examples of these include an apartment in a basement or over an attached garage. However, an ADU in a small structure on a foundation in the backyard is not currently permitted and will be subject of future legislation to be considered by the Mayor and Council.

A property owner who wants to construct an attached ADU must meet requirements for owner occupancy, square footage, parking and other conditions.

When the new regulations become law in April, those who wish to either build an attached ADU under the new zoning rules or bring an existing unpermitted attached ADU into compliance can begin the application process. Attached ADUs were previously only permitted as special exceptions.

For more information about attached accessory buildings and dwellings, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/adus.



Recent Preapplication Submittals

The following projects are under preapplication review:

- 1. **205 Park Road:** A proposal to redevelop the site in accordance with the Residential Medium Density in-fill zone with eight rowhouse dwelling units. Case PAM2024-00154.
- 2. **1470 Rockville Pike (Take 5 Rockville):** A proposal to demolish the existing building and parking, and construct a fluid maintenance facility with infrastructure and associated parking and drive aisles. PAM2024-00153.

Applications Under Review

The following applications are in the development review process:

- 3. **115 N. Van Buren St.:** Final record plat to consolidate three existing lots into one record lot. Case PLT2023-00615.
- 4. **850 Nelson St. (Woodley Gardens Project):** Major special exception modification for a private educational institution replacement school with 198-student occupancy. Case SPX2024-00408.
- 5. **900 Rockville Pike:** Project plan for a proposed 4,400-square-foot retail building with associated parking, landscaping and frontage improvements. Case PJT2023-00016.
- 6. **1700-1818 Chapman Ave. (Twinbrook Commons):** Level 2 site plan 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.
- 7. **2200 Tower Oaks Blvd. (Tower Preserve):** Level 2 site plan for a proposal to construct a residential development of 82 townhouses. Case STP2024-00473.

- 8. **2401 Wootton Parkway (Rockshire Village):** Project plan to amend the governing documents for the Rockshire planned development to redevelop the site with single-family detached dwellings, townhomes and neighborhood-serving retail. Case PJT2024-00017.
- 9. **5906 Halpine Road:** A floating zone map amendment, project plan and level 2 site plan application to permit construction of 36 two-over-two condominiums on the property. Cases MAP2024-00120, PJT2024, 00019, STP2024-00474.
- 10. **11511 Fortune Terrace (Potomac Woods):** Final record plat for Lots 23A through 23E to reflect ownership transfer and resubdivide lot 23B into eight lots and one parcel, lot 23A into six lots and two parcels, lot 23B into eight lots and one parcel, and lot 23C into 37 lots and seven parcels. Case PLT2024-00618 – PLT2024-00621.
- 11. **12501 Ardennes Ave. (Twinbrook Place):** Level 2 site plan application to convert existing office building space into a 181-unit residential building, with construction of three additional stories, of approximately 60,000 square feet. Case STP2024-00465.
- 12. **15903 Somerville Drive (Shady Grove Metro):** Annexation of Shady Grove Metro Station. Case ANX2023-00147.

Recently Approved Application

The following application was recently approved:

- 13. **2200 Tower Oaks Blvd. (Tower Preserve):** Project plan amendment for a proposal to construct a residential development of 83 townhouses. Case PJT2023-00015.



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 4 for Earth Month activities.)

Be a Respectful Neighbor and Follow Rockville's Property Rules

The City of Rockville is reminding property owners to be good neighbors and avoid exterior property violations that could affect health and safety and result in a citation:

- Remove trash or debris.
- Trim weed or plant growth of more than 10 inches tall.
- Remove junk vehicles that are inoperable, abandoned or dismantled.
- No overcrowded or prohibited dwellings.
- Prune trees, bushes, hedges, shrubs and vines so they're not a hazard or detriment to the neighborhood.
- Maintain all exterior wood and metal surfaces in good condition.
- Park motor vehicles properly in off-street parking or on the street.
- Only one unlicensed motor vehicle can be parked on a residential zone property.

For more information about common property violations, or to submit a report, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/codeenforcement.

Working on a Historic Property? You Could Qualify for a Tax Credit

Restoring or repairing the outside of a historic home? Preserving the exterior of a historic structure? You could be eligible for a property tax credit.

Rockville participates in the tax credit program for local structures designated as historic. If your property in Rockville is designated by the city as historic and you spent at least \$1,000 on exterior maintenance between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2023, you may be eligible for reduction of your property taxes for the coming year, up to 25% of the approved expenses.

Eligible projects include:

- Exterior painting.
- Uncovering and repairing original siding.
- Repairing roofs or replacing them in-kind.
- Repointing brick or stone foundations, or chimneys.
- Repairing windows, architectural trim or ornament.
- Repairing and maintaining outbuildings, such as barns and garages.
- Restoring a documented feature, such as a dormer or porch that was altered or removed.

The city is accepting applications for work completed in calendar year 2023.

For more information, contact 240-314-8236 or history@rockvillemd.gov. Applications must be sent to history@rockvillemd.gov by Monday, April 15.

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 directly associated with the residential installation of solar photovoltaic systems, electric vehicle charging stations and energy-efficient heating and cooling upgrades, such as heat pumps.

Applications must be submitted by Sunday, April 28 at www.mygovernmentonline.org and must be accepted by city staff by 5 p.m. Wednesday, 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 information about the plan, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/climate.

April is Earth Month

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

Earth Day is Monday, April 22, but Rockville and Montgomery County celebrate throughout spring with the following events:

Monday, April 1: Solar Co-op Registration Opens. Residents interested in installing rooftop solar are invited to join Capital Area Solar Switch for education and discounts. For information and updates, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/solar.

Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7: Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanups.

Stream cleanups include:

- **April 6:** Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road, 9:30 a.m.-noon; and Maryvale Park, 812 First St., 10 a.m.-noon.
- **April 7:** Northeast Park, Gude Drive and Redgate Farms Court, 10 a.m.-noon.

City staff will greet volunteers. Gloves and bags will be provided. Student Service Learning hours are available. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes. Space is limited. Registration required at www.rockvillemd.gov/adopt-a-stream.

Saturday, April 13: Twinbrook Stream Cleanup, 9:30-11 a.m. at the Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway. Student Service Learning hours are available. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited. Registration required at www.rockvillemd.gov/adopt-a-stream.

Monday, April 15-Tuesday, April 16: Montgomery County Energy Summit, in Silver Spring. This year's summit will focus on preparing the commercial building community for compliance with energy benchmarking, building energy performance standards and emerging building codes. The summit will provide

education sessions, hands-on questions and answers and support, an "innovation alley" showcasing products and services, and a networking reception. Learn more at www.mcenergysummit.org.

Saturday, April 20: Croydon Creek Campfire, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road. Gather around the campfire with friends for stories, snacks and more. An adult must accompany children and all participants must register. Ages 5 and older. Register for course #31322 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

Sunday, April 21: Science Day, noon-5 p.m. at Montgomery College, Rockville campus, 51 Mannakee St. Learn more at rockvillesciencecenter.org/rockville-science-day and in the article on page 5.

Monday, April 22: Earth Day Weed Warrior Event, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Dawson Farm Park, 312 Ritchie Parkway. Join a Rockville Weed Warrior leader for a non-native, invasive plant removal workday. SSL hours available. Space is limited and registration is required. Register and find more workdays at www.rockvillemd.gov/weedwarriors.

Saturday, April 27: City Nature Challenge, 9-10 a.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road. An annual worldwide event that encourages people in cities to get outside and observe nature in their community. Download the iNaturalist app before attending. Naturalists will teach you how to use the app and lead an excursion in the forest preserve to make observations of wildlife, big and small. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 6 and older. Register for course #31323 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

Saturday, April 27: GreenFest 2024, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Blackrock Center for the Arts, Germantown. People of all ages celebrate, learn and start or continue their journey of improving our community and the environment. Learn more at montgomerycountygreenfest.org.

Saturday, May 4: Native Plant Sale, 9-11 a.m. at Elwood Smith Community Center, 601 Harrington Road.

Sunday, May 5: 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 #31325 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

Wednesday, May 15: Climate Solutions Speaker Series: "Going Solar with Solar Switch." Learn more in the article on page 8.

Saturday, May 18: Spring Festival and Kids to Parks Day, 10 a.m.-noon at Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road. Bring the family to celebrate Kids to Parks Day with Croydon Creek! Enjoy nature games and crafts, woodland hikes, live animal meet and greets, sustainability exhibits, local vendors and more.

Find More Spring Activities at Croydon Creek Nature Center

Looking for more to do outside? Croydon Creek Nature Center offers hikes, campfires, nature outings, youth camps and more throughout the year. Learn more and register at www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek.

Weed Warrior Workdays
Join Rockville Weed Warrior Leaders for non-native invasive plant removal workdays. SSL hours available. Space is limited. Find upcoming events and register at www.rockvillemd.gov/weedwarriors.

Adopt-A-Stream
Groups can adopt a Rockville stream and host cleanups to help keep litter out of local waterways. Apply at www.rockvillemd.gov/adopt-a-stream.

Plog Rockville
Pledge to clean up litter while you walk, jog or run through Rockville and receive a free plogging bag, while supplies last. For more details and to take the pledge, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/environment. 🌱

Drug Take Back Day: Drive Up, Drop Off Unwanted Medication

The Rockville City Police Department offers safe, free and anonymous disposal of unwanted prescription drugs during National Drug Take Back Day, Sunday, April 28.

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 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, 4,383 law enforcement agencies collected 599,897 pounds — 300 tons — of unwanted prescription drugs, including 10,599 pounds in Maryland. All-time, the program has collected 8,950 tons over 25 national collection dates, including 243,154 pounds (121.5 tons) in Maryland.

Learn more about National Drug Take Back Day 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 also safely dispose of unused, unwanted or expired medication, with no questions asked, in a prescription drug drop box, available 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. 🌱



'ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY NEWS' EMAIL NEWSLETTER ... Don't forget to sign up for seasonal email newsletter updates on environmental events, volunteer opportunities and climate action news throughout the year. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters and select "Environment and Sustainability."

Be Flood Aware for April

April is Flood Awareness Month. Anywhere it can rain, it can flood. With the arrival of the rainy spring season, follow these tips to know the risk and be prepared to reduce the impact of potential flooding:

- **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.
- **Reduce Your Risk.** Take steps before a flood to protect your family and home by having an emergency plan, installing a water alarm and storing important documents in a watertight box. Find more resources at www.floodsmart.gov/first-prepare-flooding.
- **Take Advantage of the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program.** Rockville offers up to \$5,000 in matching reimbursement funds to residents and property owners who make flood protection improvements to their properties. Find program guidelines, eligibility requirements and apply at www.rockvillemd.gov/floodassistance.
- **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.

For tips on solving minor drainage issues and wet yards, read "Slow It. Spread It. Sink It: A Homeowner's Guide to Sustainable Home Drainage" at www.rockvillemd.gov/drainageguide. ❄️

Speed Limit Reduction Coming to Veirs Mill Road

The State Highway Administration recently approved Rockville's request for a speed limit reduction on a busy stretch of Veirs Mill Road in Twinbrook. The speed limit will now be 35 mph, down from 40 mph, between Edmonston Drive and Twinbrook Parkway. The change makes the speed limit consistent with that of other sections of the road, which is also known as MD 586. SHA is expected to update speed limit signs over the next two months. This section of the road was the subject of a post-crash inspection by the city's Vision Zero Task Force following a Dec. 26 crash that killed a pedestrian crossing Veirs Mill Road near Atlantic Avenue. Find more information about the Vision Zero initiative to eliminate traffic-related deaths and serious injuries at www.rockvillemd.gov/visionzero. City staff continues to work with SHA to study and evaluate speed limit reductions on other state roads in the city. Residents can raise concerns about state roadways at mdotsha.my.salesforce-sites.com/customer-care/request-for-service. ❄️

Rockets to Robots, Snakes to Stream Science — Rockville Science Day Offers Something for All

Explore rockets, robots, chemistry, reptiles and more at Rockville Science Day on Sunday, April 21. This Rockville tradition, now in its 33rd year, will be held noon-5 p.m. at Montgomery College, Rockville Campus, 51 Mannakee St. The free event offers individuals and families a chance to experience hands-on science and technology-related exhibits, activities, games and demonstrations from 100 local organizations and businesses. Activities and exhibits include building and launching rockets and exploring telescopes, robotics, backyard wildlife, microscopes, snakes, stream science, Civil

continued on pg. 8...

Vision Zero Project Public Meetings Continue in April

Community members can learn about ongoing transportation safety improvement projects across Rockville as the city hosts public meetings this month. The projects are part of the city's Vision Zero Action Plan to eliminate traffic-related deaths and serious injuries. Visit the city's online calendar, at www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar, for details on how to join the virtual public meetings described below, where city residents, visitors and interested stakeholders can learn, ask questions and submit comments about the projects. A virtual meeting from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 9 will present findings from a Complete Streets feasibility study for Mannakee Street that was funded by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Transportation Land-Use Connections Program. The Complete Streets approach can reduce speeding vehicles by identifying potential improvements for motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users. The city's ongoing effort to develop new guidelines for pedestrian crosswalks and other pedestrian improvements — another COG-funded project, through the Regional Roadway Safety Program — will be the focus of a virtual meeting from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 16. Other public meetings later this spring, at dates and times to be determined, will include a discussion of the Beall Avenue Complete Streets and asphalt art project and walk-and-roll-the-block meetings for each segment in the second group of sidewalk feasibility studies. For more information about these and other Vision Zero-related projects, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/visionzeroprojects. ❄️

Memorial Day Parade Participants Wanted

Friday, April 5 is the deadline to apply to participate in Rockville's Memorial Day parade. Applications are available at www.rockvillemd.gov/memorialday. The city's 80th annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade will take place 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, May 27, in Rockville Town Center. It caps off a weekend that includes the Hometown Holidays Music Fest at RedGate Park. Learn more on page 8 and find more details at www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH and "City of Rockville Hometown Holidays" on Facebook. ❄️



ALLIES FOR EQUITY ... Rockville's Mayor and Council, city leadership, and leadership from Rockville Economic Development, Inc. attended Government Alliance on Race and Equity training on Monday, March 11 at VisArts in Rockville Town Square. The GARE training introduced roles, responsibilities and opportunities for government to advance racial equity. Participants explored the history of race, implicit and explicit bias, and individual, institutional and structural racism and how it impacts government. Attendees gained skills to identify and address institutional and structural racism, and increased their capacity to advance racial equity. Staff introduced an equity tool that will be used in decisions relating to the city's policies, practices, programs and budget. Learn more about the city's justice, equity, diversity and inclusion efforts at www.rockvillemd.gov/ljedi. Learn more about GARE at racialequityalliance.org.

Give It a Rake! Spring Leaf Collection is This Month

The city will vacuum leaves from neighborhood curbs from April 8-19 in five collection areas throughout Rockville. Unlike the fall leaf collection, which has two collection rounds, city crews make only one pass to collect leaves in spring. An interactive map at www.rockvillemd.gov/leafcollection allows residents to input their address and learn when their leaves will be collected. 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. 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 refuse 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 Now Issuing Citations Related to Wootton Parkway Speed Camera

Rockville is now issuing citations for speeding vehicles captured by a speed camera on Wootton Parkway. In a continuing effort to reduce the number of speeding vehicles in Rockville neighborhoods, the Rockville City Police Department deployed the speed monitoring system in late February in the 2500 block of Wootton Parkway, near its intersection with Fairwood Court. The system uses a portable camera to monitor southbound traffic. Though the monitoring system was fully functional, the city did not issue citations for the first month the camera was deployed. The city began issuing citations Tuesday, March 26 for vehicles exceeding the posted speed limit of 25 mph by 12 mph or more. For more information, contact Socrates Yiallourous, RCPD's photo/parking enforcement supervisor, at 240-314-8373 or syiallourous@rockvillemd.gov.

Register Now for Bike to Work Day in May

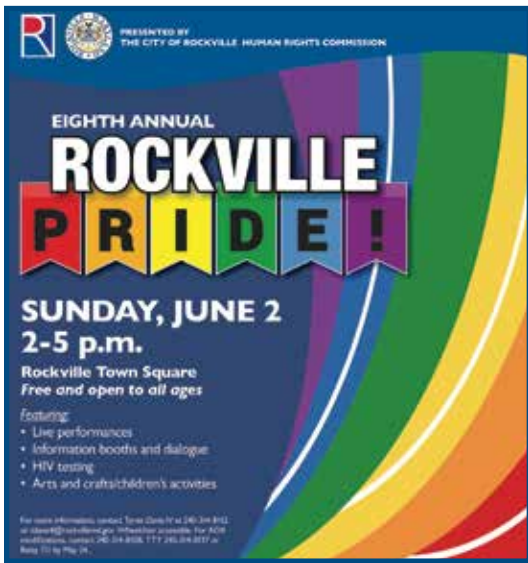
Trade your gas pedal for bicycle pedals on Bike to Work Day, Friday, May 17. Registration is now open for all 16 Montgomery County pit stops, including ones in city limits at Dawson's Market in Rockville Town Square and Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Drive. Pit stops will have free snacks, beverages and bicycling giveaways, while supplies last, and free T-shirts for the first 16,000 people in the Washington metropolitan region to register and stop by a pit stop. 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.

Tour the Newly Restored Northeast Park Pond

Join city staff and the Rockville Environment Commission for a tour of the recently completed Northeast Pond and Stream Restoration Project from 6-7 p.m. Thursday, April 25 at Northeast Park, at the dead end of Neal Drive. Learn how the project restored the stormwater management pond, reduced erosion, reconnected the stream to its floodplain and enhanced wildlife habitat. Register for the tour and learn more about the project at www.rockvillemd.gov/northeastparkpond.



MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ... Now on Rockville 11's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/cityofrockville): The Mayor and Council recognize the Richard Montgomery High School girls varsity volleyball team for winning the school's first-ever state title in girls varsity volleyball; and revisit the inclusivity and diversity of our community with Rockville International Night.



Sponsors Wanted for Rockville Pride

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

Hosted by the city's Human Rights Commission, Rockville Pride will be held Sunday, June 2 in Rockville Town Square Park.

The deadline to apply to become a sponsor is 5 p.m. Friday, May 10. Find more information, including a sponsorship application, at www.rockvillemd.gov/pride or contact Tyree Davis IV at 240-314-8112 or tdavis4@rockvillemd.gov.

Register Now for the Suds and Soles 5K in June

Registration is now open for the Suds and Soles 5K. The Montgomery County Road Runners Club and the City of Rockville are teaming up again to present this 5K race at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 15. The course begins and ends in Rockville Town Center and winds through neighborhood streets.

The race is open to all ages and features a tiered pricing structure offering limited slots at reduced prices. Adult registration starts at \$37. Register early and save. Race-day registration will be available only if slots remain.

The post-race party will feature live music and refreshments, including beverages from local breweries. Adult runners will receive free beverage samples with their registration. A KidZone will feature activities for children 10 and younger.

For more information and to register, visit www.mcrrcsudsandsoles.org. Proceeds benefit the Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation, Inc. and MCRRC's youth and beginning running programs. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/sudsandsoles.

A Spring Community Concert

Presented by

Rockville Villages

Meet Villages Representatives

Connect with Community Members of All Ages

Featuring jazz ensembles from Richard Montgomery and Rockville high schools

Sunday, April 7 at 3 p.m.

This free, non-ticketed event will be held at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

Light refreshments of cookies and punch will be served after the performance.

For more information contact tevans@rockvillemd.gov or call 240-907-9133. For more information on Rockville Villages visit www.rockvillemd.gov/villages or scan QR code.

Reflections, Galas and Murder at the Rockville Civic Center

The Tamburitzens present "Reflections." 3 p.m. Sunday, April 14.

Students dance, sing and play their way across the countries of Eastern and Western Europe with instruments, costumes and intricate steps. Celebrate the color, vibrancy and uniqueness of the many cultures found in this tradition-rich region. Visit fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/Reflections for more information and to purchase tickets.

Tickets cost \$42; \$37 for seniors; \$20 for students; and children younger than 10 attend free. Group pricing is available. Call the box office for more information.

Rockville Concert Band presents "Spring Concert." 3 p.m. Sunday, April 21.

The Rockville Concert Band will present its end-of-season concert. No tickets are required, but a \$5 donation is appreciated. Visit rockvilleconcertband.org for more information.

Rockville Musical Theatre's 50th Anniversary Gala and Cabaret. 6 p.m. Saturday, April 27.

As the curtains rise on their 50th anniversary season, Rockville Musical Theatre prepares to mark not only a half-century of captivating performances but also the lasting bonds of community. Enjoy an exciting two-act musical review and reception celebrating 50 years of shared memories, and the future promise of RMT.

General admission tickets cost \$50.

The Mayor and Council will present a certificate of recognition to RMT for their 50th anniversary at their Monday, April 29 meeting.

Visit fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/RMT50 for more information and to purchase tickets.

Rockville Little Theatre presents "Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient

Express." 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, May 3, 4, 10 and 11; 2 p.m. Sunday, May 5 and 12.

Just after midnight, a snowdrift stops the Orient Express in its tracks. By morning, an American tycoon lies dead in his compartment, stabbed eight times, his door locked from the inside. Was it the colonel, the countess, the American traveler or the Russian princess? The passengers become suspects and world-famous detective Hercule Poirot must identify the murderer before they strike again. Adapted by Ken Ludwig and directed by Laura W. Andruski.

Visit fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/MOE for more information and to purchase tickets.

Tickets cost \$22; \$20 for students and seniors. Group pricing is available. Call the box office for more information.

On Exhibition at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery

Meet the artists of the Gaithersburg Camera Club from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, April 14 at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.

"Looking Up, Down, and All Around" will run from April 14-May 10.

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

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Glenview Mansion are located at the Rockville Civic Center, 603 Edmonston Drive.

Buy tickets online and learn about performances and events at Rockville Civic Center Park. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre, call 240-314-8690, or visit the box office, 2-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. For more information, email theatre@rockvillemd.gov.

Join Rockville's Youth Mentoring Program and Empower Kids Through Education and Sports

ROCK-KIDZ: Dedicate just one hour a week to mentoring elementary school students, boosting their grades and self-esteem.

Sports Mentors: Coach, mentor, guide and inspire young athletes to greatness.

Make an impact.

Become a youth mentor today!

Questions? Contact C.J. Rucker at crucker@rockvillemd.gov. To apply, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/2075/Mentoring.

DID YOU KNOW? ... Rockville has six resident companies that call F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre home: Rockville Civic Ballet; Rockville Chorus; Rockville Concert Band; Rockville Little Theatre; Rockville Musical Theatre; and Victorian Lyric Opera Company. Be sure to catch one of their performances this season. Go to www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre to see a complete schedule or order your tickets from the box office at 240-314-8690. See the performances article above.

Health and Wellness Coming Up in April at the Senior Center

Stay healthy, informed and entertained with seminars and events from the Rockville Senior Center in April.

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

Rockville Senior Center Spring Fest

All ages are invited to this indoor/outdoor event. Vaccines will be available (bring your insurance card). Free food. Walk through a human body inflatable, get creative with arts and crafts, bring unwanted prescription drugs for disposal by the Rockville City Police Department, listen to music and more.

Noon-3 p.m. Monday, April 1.

4 Weeks of Wellness

Regular exercise and balanced nutrition are essential for maintaining overall health and preventing disease. Join Paula Ohlandt for tips on creating habits that positively impact your well-being.

11 a.m. Tuesdays, April 9-30. Free. Register with course #31222.

AAA CarFit

CarFit is a comprehensive check of how well you and your vehicle work together. A trained professional will help you complete a 12-point checklist. Call Betty at 240-314-8803 to schedule an appointment.

9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday, April 30. Free. Back parking lot of the senior center.

Aphasia Support Group

This group helps stroke survivors, particularly those with aphasia, overcome social isolation through guided communication activities such as board games and arts and crafts.

1:30-2:30 p.m. Thursdays, April 11, May 9 and June 13. Free. Register with course #31244.

Better Breather's Club

A monthly club featuring educational presentations on topics relevant to respiratory issues. Presented by Kerri Donnelly, regional director of Business Development,

Moncare.

1:30-2:30 p.m. Thursday, April 18. Free. Register with course #31216.

Brain Support with Essential Oils

Explore the benefits of essential oils for brain health and how this ancient medicine can assist with brain fog and memory retention. Presented by Adrienne Hausman, Adrienne's Aromas.

1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, April 11. Free. Hybrid.

Register with course #31217.

Corrective Exercises to Reduce Knee Pain:

A Holistic Approach

This six-week holistic program is designed to reduce knee pain. Rediscover the activities you love and live pain-free. Presented by Renee Moten, founder of Functional Fitness, a certified personal trainer, and myoskeletal and massage therapist.

1-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays, April 9-May 14. \$25. Hybrid. Register with course #31233.

EFT Tapping for Good Health

Learn about Emotional Freedom Technique, or EFT, tapping, a scientifically and clinically proven self-administered technique based on modern psychology and ancient acupuncture, without needles, to help with stress-related issues like anger, worry, and physical aches and pain.

1-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 17. Free. Hybrid. Register with course #31240.

Get Relief from Reflux

Gastroesophageal reflux disease, or GERD, causes non-burning chest pain, difficulty swallowing, sore throats, shortness of breath and many other symptoms. An expert in diagnosing patients with GERD and Barrett's esophagus will discuss diagnosis and treatments.

1-2 p.m. Thursday, April 25. Free. Online. Register with course #31291.

Stress Reduction/ Meditation

Get the tools to focus, relax and come to a more peaceful sense of being, with time for meditation and discussion, with instructor Betty Figure.

1-2 p.m. Mondays, April 8-June 10. \$30 members/\$40 nonmembers. Hybrid. Register with course #31229.

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.
SFC 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
H Hybrid: Offering both Virtual and In Person
FB Facebook Live Event
EM Earth Month Event



3



10



20



27

1 **ROCKVILLE SENIOR CENTER SPRING FEST** See article on page 6. Noon-3 p.m. Free. **SR**

2 **V** **WHOOO'S IN THE CANYON?** Learn about the Mexican spotted owl and how it uses special adaptations to survive in a harsh desert environment. Register with course #31067. 11 a.m.-noon.

2,16 **V** **AGING LIGHTLY** Delve into wisdom and strategies offered by mental health professionals Dale Curd and Kimberly Alexander in their book, "Living Lightly: Bring Happiness and Calm to Your Everyday." Meets first and third Tuesdays of the month. Register with course #31252. 1-2:30 p.m.

2 **H** **FITNESS WORKSHOP: FEELING FIT WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE** Take control of Parkinson's symptoms and build an exercise routine that fits your needs. Register with course #31613. 1-2:15 p.m. **SR**

3,13 **LITTLE EXPLORERS** Take time with your little one to go exploring with a naturalist. Hiking, games and hands-on learning are all part of the fun. Registration required. Ages 2-5. Register with course #31315 (April 3) or #31316 (April 13). 10-11 a.m. **CC**

3 **TRAFFICKING 101** There are two main types of human trafficking: sex and labor. The Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force teaches how to identify human trafficking and how this crime is covered by Maryland laws. Register with course #29796. 10-11 a.m. **SR**

3 **WALKING SERIES: LAKE NEEDWOOD** Enjoy the outdoors and increase fitness while experiencing beautiful local trails on this seasonal event. Designed for the active participant. Some trails may include uneven surfaces. Transportation will be provided. Bring a bagged lunch. Register with course #30294. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **SR**

3 **OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB** Spend an hour investigating and learning about nature. Play games, perform experiments and explore the forest preserve. Dress for the weather, as a majority of time is spent outside. Meets every other Wednesday. Ages 6-11. Register with course #31319. 4:30-5:30 p.m. **CC**

3 **V** **ASK AN EV (ELECTRIC VEHICLE) OWNER** Join EVADC on the first Wednesday of each month for the online Ask An EV Owner event. Are you shopping for an electric vehicle? Do you have questions about your new EV? Or are you just curious about EVs? If you answer yes to any of these questions, this event is for you. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Visit evadc.wildapricot.org/ask.

4,11,18 **H** **WRITING A MEMOIR** Organize and create your story with this three-part session. You don't need to have a background in writing or read your story aloud. Class is offsite; transportation available. Register with course #31234. 10:45-11:45 a.m. Hybrid or at Brightview Senior Living.

4 **FASHION SHOW WITH TAYLOR MARIE** Taylor Marie brings shopping to the senior center with the latest fashions in sizes and creative accessories for all. Senior center models wow you with designer clothing at below-retail prices. Then, browse the racks, try on and purchase to take home. Light refreshments will be served. Register with course #31193. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

5,6,7 **MURDER AT THE MANSION PRESENTS "CALAMITY IN CAMELOT"** Old King Pellinore has been found dead beside the lake and legendary Arthurian characters are suspects. Visit fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/Calamity for tickets and more information. **GM**

6 **POTOMAC RIVER WATERSHED CLEANUP** Looking to help make a difference in the environment of our community? Volunteer in the Hayes Forest Preserve! Gloves and bags provided. All participants must register. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/adopt-a-stream. Ages 5 and older. 9:30 a.m.-noon. **CC**

7 **GEOLOGY HIKE** Have you ever wondered about the rocks beneath your feet? Join our resident geologist for a hike that will talk geology basics and examine geological features of the park. Plan to hike at least a mile. Wear comfortable hiking shoes and bring water. All participants must register. Ages 6 and older. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **CC**

8 **V** **BECOMING A NEW NATION: 1773** Explore the road to the American Revolution. Register with course #31041. 10:30-11:30 a.m.

8 **MAYOR AND COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 2025 BUDGET** See article on page 3. 7 p.m. **CH**

9,16,23,30 **4 WEEKS OF WELLNESS** Regular exercise and balanced nutrition are essential for maintaining overall health and preventing disease. Engaging in healthy habits can have a positive impact on your well-being. Learn more about these healthy tips with this four-week course. Register with course #31222. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **SR**

9 **CORRECTIVE EXERCISES TO REDUCE KNEE PAIN: A HOLISTIC APPROACH** See article on page 6. **SR**

9 **H** **SCIENCE TUESDAYS** Monthly presentations and conversations with a scientist. Each meeting focuses on a different topic. No scientific background required, just curiosity. Co-sponsored by Rockville Science Center. Second Tuesdays of the month. Register with course #31228. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

9 **V** **STORYTELLING WITH ERIN: THE PEOPLE WHO SHOW UP FOR US** Ever notice how just when you need help, someone shows up? Call them guardian angels, divine help, universal messengers or fortunate coincidences — they're real people in our lives who seem to appear when we least expect them. Join us as we tip our caps to all the helpers by sharing the stories of life's significant strangers. Register with course #31204. 5:30-6:30 p.m.

10 **V** **GIRAFFES: A SILENT EXTINCTION** Learn about the tallest animals on earth with a mix of live footage, keeper interviews and video clips. Giraffe populations have shrunk at an alarming rate over the last decade due to habitat loss, human population growth, poaching, disease, war and civil unrest. Register with course #31066. 1-2 p.m.

11 **H** **STATE OF THE REAL ESTATE MARKET** A senior-focused update on the real estate market. Learn where people are moving, the optimal timing for buying or selling, and strategies to stay in your home longer. Discuss how to strategically downsize. Snacks and raffle prizes for in-person attendees. Register with course #31235. 10-11:30 a.m. **SR**

11 **V** **COOKING CLASSES WITH CHEF ALBA: DELICIOUS EGG DISHES FOR ANY OCCASION** Cook with Chef Alba, or simply watch, during these live and interactive cooking classes on Zoom. Register with course #31006. 11:30-1 p.m.

11 **H** **BRAIN SUPPORT WITH ESSENTIAL OILS** Explore the benefits of essential oils for brain health and how this ancient medicine can assist brain fog and memory retention. Register with course #31217. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

14 **THE TAMBURITZANS PRESENT "REFLECTIONS"** See article on page 6. **FSF**

16 **HOW MONEY WORKS** Learn about how money works, how to make responsible, well-informed decisions and how to get the best value for the dollars you spend. Register with course #31238. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

17 **H** **EFT TAPPING FOR GOOD HEALTH** See article on page 6. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

17 **SENIOR SCIENTISTS PROGRAM** Designed to engage and empower seniors by involving them in research activities, providing educational and interactive experiences tailored to their interests and capabilities. Register with course #31242. 1:30-3 p.m. **SR**

18 **NATIVE PLANT CONTAINER GARDEN** Native plants are not only important for birds and insects, they also make a beautiful display for your porch or deck. Croydon Creek Nature Center staff will share information about native plants. Make a small container garden of native plants to take home. Register with course #31202. 1:30-3 p.m. **SR**

20 **ROCKVILLE SKATE JAM** Join us for our third annual Skate Jam at the Rockville Skate Park. Bring your family and friends for a day filled with fun activities, including morning yoga, skating competitions, skate demos, food and much more. Free. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Rockville Skate Park.

20 **CELEBRATE EARTH DAY CAMPFIRE** Gather around the campfire with friends for stories, snacks and more. An adult must accompany children and all participants must register. Ages 5 and older. Register with course #31322. 7:30-8:30 p.m. **CC**

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

21 **ROCKVILLE CONCERT BAND PRESENTS "SPRING CONCERT"** See article on page 6. 3-4 p.m. **FSF**

22 **EARTH DAY** See article on page 4.

22 **V** **IN PRAISE OF POETRY** Focuses on three poet laureates for National Poetry Month. Register with course #31047. 10:30-11:30 a.m.

23 **WELCOME MAT MASTERPIECE** Craft a personalized welcome mat. Supplies provided. Register with course #31203. 12:30-2 p.m. **SR**

25 **GET RELIEF FROM REFLUX** See article on page 6. **SR**

25 **CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK MOBILE MARKET** Free fresh produce for anyone. No income requirement. 2-4 p.m. **SR**

27 **CITY NATURE CHALLENGE** An annual worldwide event that encourages people in cities to get outside and observe nature in their community. Download the iNaturalist app before attending. Naturalists will teach you how to use the app and lead you on an excursion in the forest preserve to make observations of wildlife big and small! All children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 6 and older. Register with course #31323. 9-10 a.m. **CC**

27 **ROCKVILLE MUSICAL THEATRE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA AND CABARET** See article on page 6. 6-11 p.m. **FSF**

30 **AAA CARFIT** See article on page 6. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. **SR**

30 **V** **STORYTELLING WITH ERIN: THE STORIES WE TELL OURSELVES** When we're achy and tired, worried and alone, what stories do we tell ourselves to keep going? Share how you've gotten through the tough stuff and maybe even grown stronger from it, so we can wield brave new tools for whatever's next. Register with course #31205. 5:30-6:30 p.m.

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

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

Hometown Holidays to Make Memorial Day Weekend Great at RedGate

Save the Date for May 25-26 for the City's Annual Music Fest

Mark your calendars for the Hometown Holidays Music Fest from noon-7 p.m. Saturday, May 25 and Sunday, May 26 at RedGate Park. The annual free festival will feature two stages, food and beverages, and activities for kids.

Once again, the festival will offer entertainment aplenty, with music from U.S. Navy Band Commodores, 8 Ohms, Poehemia, DeSanguashington and the JoGo Project. Kid-friendly features include music by Kidsinger Jim and an animal show by Ferrets and Friends. The full schedule will be available the first week of April.

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 9-10 a.m. Sunday at the RedGate Stage.

A free shuttle will run between Rockville Town Center and the festival.

The city's 80th annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, May 27, in Rockville Town Center, will cap off the weekend.

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

Mayor and Council Work to Protect Renters from Excessive Rent Hikes

In a move to protect renters, the Mayor and Council adopted 2.6% as the Voluntary Rent Guideline for 2024.

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 2.6%, or less, if possible.

The voluntary rent guidelines system provides a baseline amount for rent increases 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/landlord-tenant.

Make the Solar Switch and Earn Energy from the Sun

Lower your energy costs, become energy independent and take part in the renewable revolution: Join Solar Switch to learn about options for installing a solar energy system on the rooftop of your home or small business.

Solar Switch, formerly the Capital Area Solar Co-Op, will be open for applications from Monday, April 1 through Wednesday, July 24. Electric vehicle chargers are also offered in this group-driven, cooperative purchase discount program. Financing for all incomes is available.

Learn more about Solar Switch during the virtual Climate Solutions Speaker Series session, "Going Solar with Solar Switch," from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 15. Register to attend at bit.ly/SolarSwitch2024.

For more about the co-op, visit www.solarunitedneighbors.org/maryland.

Don't own a roof — or have one that's shaded? Consider joining a community solar project. Learn how at www.solarunitedneighbors.org/go-solar/community-solar.

Rockville Science Day

continued from pg. 5...

War medical practices, coding challenges, math puzzles, chemistry in action, electric vehicles, quadcopters, archaeology mini-digs, 3-D printing, brain games and much more.

As with admission, parking is free. Food will be available for purchase. The event will be held rain or shine.

Volunteers are needed. Student Service Learning hours are available for students 16 and older who help with exhibits on Sunday and/or with setup on Saturday. To learn more, including to register an exhibit or to volunteer, visit rockvillesciencecenter.org/rockville-science-day.

Can't wait for Science Day? The Rockville Science Center sponsors online science presentations the second and third Tuesday of every month. For something more hands-on, the center hosts classes for all ages and engaging activities, such as Numberphiles math club and a family chess club. Activities are held in the center's storefront at 36C Maryland Ave. and in the Rockville Makerspace at 33F Maryland Ave. RSC also hosts after-school and homeschool classes, winter and spring break programs, and summer camps. Learn more about these and other upcoming events at www.rockville-sciencecenter.org.



"ROCKVILLE ROLL CALL" takes a closer look at the Rockville staff members who serve our city. This month, get to know Rockville's dispatch center, whose dedicated professionals assist with calls for service, from emergency calls to the Rockville City Police Department to water main breaks and monitoring city facilities. Find "Rockville Roll Call" on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, and at www.youtube.com/cityofrockville.

LEARN MORE ON ROCKVILLE 11 www.youtube.com/cityofrockville

SPRING COMMUNITY OUTDOOR YARD SALE Saturday, May 4 7 a.m.— noon

It's Springtime! Let's get into those closets and basement storage areas, find some treasures to sell and make some easy money at our annual Spring Community Yard Sale.

Vendors must preregister with payment to secure a space. Payment holds one parking spot and one 6-by-3 feet table. Set-up time is 6-7 a.m. Only one table permitted per spot when providing your own table. Table cannot exceed 6-by-3 feet. Rain date is May 5 (7-11:30 a.m.). No weapons or food can be sold.

New Location:

Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park City-provided table, \$35, #31580 Additional table, \$35, #31581

Bring your own table, \$25 #31582 (Only one BYOT permitted per parking spot) FREE TO THE PUBLIC TO SHOP



VISARTS' 12TH ANNUAL ROCKVILLE ARTS FESTIVAL

May 4-5, 2024 / 10 AM-5 PM

Rockville Town Square • Rain or Shine • Free

130 Artists / Artisan Market / Community Art Project Craft Beer + Wine / Chalk Art Competition / Food Trucks



Scan the QR code to learn more or visit www.visartscenter.org/rockville-arts-festival



Connect with us on Social Media.



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Rockville Reports is the official publication of the City of Rockville, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. It is delivered to all homes and businesses within Rockville's city limits. Any individuals with disabilities who would like to receive the information in this publication in another form may contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at 240-314-8100; TTY 240-314-8137.

BACK IN THE DAY ... The April 1998 edition of "Rockville Reports" reported on a burgeoning Rockville community. "The King Farm recently was selected as one of the 'most exciting' new projects in the Washington area by the Urban Land Institute," stated a front-page item. "Currently, two houses are standing, and single family model homes are scheduled to be open in May. Eventually, King Farm will have more than 3,000 homes, 125,000 sq. ft. of neighborhood retail, up to 3.1 million sq. ft. of office and employment space, a Village Center, an elementary and middle school, parks, and playgrounds."