



RockvilleReports

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Rockville Holiday Drive Continues into Gift-Giving Season

Donations are being accepted for the 2022 Holiday Drive, Rockville's annual push to help the community's hundreds of children and families in need during the holiday and gift-giving season.

Get involved by:

- Purchasing new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages. Especially needed are toys for kids ages 9-11 (science and craft kits, sports supplies, etc.). Donate online easily at bit.ly/HolidayDriveDonate.
- Write a check: Checks can be made payable to "City of Rockville" (with "Rockville Holiday Drive" in the memo line) and sent to Rockville Holiday Drive Fund, c/o Community Services Division, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- Organize a toy or book drive

to collect new unwrapped toys or books (new books for children of all ages, including teenagers, are needed).

- Donate \$25 Target gift certificates.

Toys can be dropped in collection boxes at several locations: F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Glenview Mansion at the Rockville Civic Center; Croydon Creek Nature Center; Twinbrook Community Recreation Center; Lincoln Park Community Center; Thomas Farm Community Center; Rockville Swim and Fitness Center; Rockville Senior Center; and City Hall.

All donations of money and goods are tax deductible.

For more information, contact Frederika Granger at fgranger@rockvillemd.gov. ❖

• 2022 CITY OF ROCKVILLE • Year in Review

JANUARY

For a fifth consecutive year, and for the 10th anniversary of the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index, Rockville scored a perfect 100 out of 100 marks for the city's commitment to health, welfare, safety and equality of its lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community.

Rockville was looking ahead to the 2022 session of the Maryland General Assembly, forwarding state legislative priorities that included authorization of electronic legal notices, education funding, protecting homes and businesses from the state's proposed project to widen Interstate 270, and combating climate change.

The Mayor and Council amended the city's Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit program to increase Rockville's affordable housing supply. The expansion and preservation of affordable-housing opportunities in Rockville are among the Mayor and Council's top priorities.

The new year brought a new law regarding lawn care in Rockville. The Mayor and Council had voted in 2021 to allow Montgomery County's pesticide law to apply in the city, effective Jan. 1, 2022. The law restricts the use of certain pesticides on private lawns, playgrounds, mulched recreation areas and child care facilities, prohibiting most synthetic pesticides.

Metro's Rockville and Shady Grove stations reopened after a four-month shutdown to repair and replace the stations' aging canopies.

Rockville joined the ranks of hundreds of U.S. cities as the Mayor and Council approved the city's first plan for addressing climate change. The Climate Action Plan sets forth 26 community actions and 16 city actions to reduce climate-warming pollution

and foster resilience, especially for the city's most vulnerable neighborhoods.

City police announced that residents can safely dispose of unused, unwanted or expired medication, with no questions asked, in a new prescription drug drop box in the front lobby of the Rockville City Police Station, 2 W. Montgomery Ave.

FEBRUARY

The Mayor and Council voted to increase development fees across the board by an average 2.5%, starting in February, to address increased expense from development-related city services and the cost of new efficiency-oriented technology. Building fees had last been updated in 2018. Development fees had remained unchanged since 2011.

The Mayor and Council decided on a preferred concept for the future of the 131-acre RedGate Park that included an amphitheater, community gardens and renovating the existing clubhouse.

MARCH

Rockville City Hall reopened with provisions in place to protect the health of Rockville employees and the public and prevent the spread of COVID-19, having been closed since March 14, 2020. City government had continued virtually throughout the pandemic.

¿Hablas español? Rockville city police employees who speak multiple languages became eligible to earn extra pay under a new city program that pays a stipend to multilingual members of city law enforcement.

Rockville's Mayor and Council played a vital role in a big win for county municipalities in March, helping to secure money to reimburse incorporated towns and cities for property tax duplication collected

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Christmas and New Year's Holiday Weekends Bring Closures in Rockville

City government and city facilities will be closed for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. All city facilities will be closed Sundays, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Recycling and trash will occur as usual during these holiday weeks. For more information on recycling and trash collection, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash or call 240-314-8568.

City Hall and many facilities will be closed Mondays, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2, including the **Rockville Senior Center** and fitness room; **Croydon Creek Nature Center**; the **Rockville Skate Park** (which will also be closed Saturdays, Dec. 24 and 31); **Glenview Mansion**; the Rockville Civic Center business office; and the **F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre** box office. For theater tickets, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre.

Several facilities will offer limited holiday weekend hours:

- **Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm and Twinbrook** community centers will be open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31; and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.
- **Croydon Creek Nature Center** will be open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31.

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Mayor and Council to Review Rockville Station Study

Consultants from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority will share an update on a study of the Rockville Metro station with the Mayor and Council at their Monday, Dec. 5 meeting.

The WMATA team will share the draft results of a concept analysis and discuss four concept design options with the Mayor and Council.

This is an interim review of the analysis by the Mayor and Council in order to provide direction before holding two public meetings to share results of the concept analysis and receive feedback from the community.

The station, which opened

in 1984, is a critical part of the city's transportation network, but is showing its age.

The study's goals are to develop recommendations for improvements to the station's aging infrastructure and connections with Rockville's downtown and neighborhoods to the east, potential development opportunities at the site, and strategies to increase bus and train ridership.

Find more information on the study at www.rockvillemd.gov/2356/Rockville-Station-Study or contact Manisha Tewari at mtewari@rockvillemd.gov. ❖

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

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Bank On Rockville to Help Low-Income Residents Better Control Their Finances

Rockville has launched Bank On Rockville, an initiative to connect its low- to moderate-income residents to safe and affordable bank accounts, increase their financial capability, and provide more pathways to economic self-sufficiency.

As part of a national movement, Bank On Rockville will connect residents with nationally certified Bank On accounts that feature low or waived maintenance fees, low minimum opening balance, no inactivity fees and no overdraft fees.

The program also provides referrals to free personal finance workshops, one-to-one financial coaching and credit counseling, and tax preparation services. (Income eligibility restrictions apply for tax preparation.)

Part of the Bank On Rockville program includes information about Family FinCap, a pilot, two-generation, incentivize savings program that combines financial literacy education with workforce development opportunities.

Matched funds will be restricted to workforce development purposes, including higher education, certification and credentialing, and small business endeavors.

Family FinCap begins Tuesday, Jan. 10 and runs through Tuesday, July 25. Eligibility criteria apply.

For more information about Bank On Rockville programming, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/bankon.

December Hours of Operation

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- The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will be open with limited hours and services Dec. 24 and 31. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter for details.

Parking will be free at city-owned meters on Dec. 25, Dec. 26, Jan. 1 and Jan. 2.

Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-5000. ❄️



ROCKVILLE GETS CHARGED UP FOR EV READINESS PLAN ... All around Rockville, from residents to the city's own Fleet Services Division, vehicle owners are recognizing the benefits of skipping the gas pump and going electric.

Recognizing the need to support electric vehicles, Rockville is developing an EV Readiness Plan to identify where chargers are needed and recommend actions to support equitable charging access.

Help Rockville develop the plan: Join city staff for an overview and provide input at the EV Plan Virtual Open House from 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8.

Find more details and complete the city's sustainable transportation survey at engagerockville.com/evplan.

Matching Grant Program Seeks Projects to Improve Communities

Application Deadline is Jan. 27

The city's matching grant program helps neighbors work together to accomplish common goals that support the health, vitality and inclusivity of the place they call home.

Community Empowerment Matching Grant applications are being accepted now. The application deadline is Friday, Jan. 27.

Neighborhood, civic or homeowners associations, community groups, organized groups of neighbors, and student groups are eligible to apply. Neighbors and organizations willing to match funding through cash, in-kind donations and volunteer hours are also eligible.

Applications are reviewed and grants awarded by the City Manager's Office. Grants typically range from \$500-\$1,000, must benefit a clearly identified area within city limits and may address any or all of the following objectives:

- Building community: Projects that promote the development or sustainability of a neighborhood association or community group. Activities that foster diversity, equity and inclusion.

- Community improvement projects: Projects that improve the shared space within a neighborhood or strengthen community identity. This may include landscape improvements and maintenance, natural features management, benches, painting or certain exterior improvements. Bonus points will be awarded if two or more groups work together on a project.
- Livability initiatives: Projects that provide educational and outreach opportunities that strengthen social connections between neighbors or neighborhoods. This may include improving safety, addressing a neighborhood challenge or conflict, serving low-income seniors or finding ways to welcome newcomers to Rockville.

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

Grant funds will become available after Wednesday, March 1.

To see the objectives for matching grants, and for an application form and additional information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/communityempowerment. ❄️

Join Rockville's Mayor and Council at a reception to celebrate and thank State Delegate Jim Gilchrist for his years of service.



Monday, Dec. 12 • 6 p.m.
The Mayor and Council Chambers, 111 Maryland Ave.



This celebration is open to the public.

Sanitation and Recycling Workers Wanted

Join a great team with long-term career potential!



Starting pay: \$23.94/hour + \$5,000 recruitment and retention incentive.

- Work Monday-Thursday 7 a.m.-5 p.m. (Fridays off, except for when collection days fall on a city holiday.)
- Must obtain a commercial driver's license (resources provided).
- Highly competitive benefits, including pension.

 For a full job description and to apply, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/careers and search "Sanitation"

 **ROCKVILLE TOWN SQUARE PARKING**

2 HOURS OF FREE PARKING  **NO VALIDATION REQUIRED**



SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY NEWS!
www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters

Rockville Recycling and Trash Collections Holiday Schedule 2023		
DATE	HOLIDAY	COLLECTION CHANGES
Monday, Jan. 2	New Year's Day (observed)	No changes. Collections occur as usual this week.
Monday, Jan. 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	All collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Monday, Feb. 20	Presidents Day	No changes. Collections occur as usual this week.
Monday, May 29	Memorial Day	All collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Monday, June 19	Juneteenth National Independence Day	All collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Tuesday, July 4	Independence Day	Monday collections as scheduled; Tuesday through Thursday collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Monday, Sept. 4	Labor Day	All collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Monday, Oct. 9	Indigenous Peoples' Day	No changes. Collections occur as usual this week.
Friday, Nov. 10	Veterans Day (observed)	No changes. Collections occur as usual this week.
Thursday, Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Day	Thursday collections occur Friday. No other changes this week.
Monday, Dec. 25	Christmas Day	All collections occur one day later than usual this week.

Find 2023 holiday collection schedule calendars for each collection day at www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash.



Make sure your cart:

- Does not block sidewalks.
- Does not block mailboxes.
- Wheels are on the curb.
- Does not exceed a maximum weight of 165 pounds.
- Is removed within 24 hours of collection.

Thank you for helping to keep our community and collection crews safe.

Food Scraps Compost Drop-Off
Rockville residents can drop off food scraps in the designated green bins at the maintenance facility at 14625 Rothgeb Drive. The site is accessible 24/7 and the service is free of charge. Find details at www.rockvillemd.gov/foodscraps.

No Plastic Bags
The city does not accept plastic bags or film of any type in recycling collections. Find grocery or retail stores that offer plastic bag collection bins near their entrances at bit.ly/howtorecyclebags.

Recycling and Refuse Office

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash or call 240-314-8568 between 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

- Schedule a special pickup:
 - Bulk refuse.
 - Scrap metal.
 - Electronics recycling.
- Report a missed collection, question or concern.
- Order, change or return carts.

Find this information at www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash.
Encuentre la información en www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash.
www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash 에 서 정보를 얻으실 수 있습니다.
如欲了解更多信息，请访问 www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash.
Информация предоставлена на www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash.
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www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash • 240-314-8568

  **MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ...** Now on Rockville 11's YouTube channel, (youtube.com/cityofrockville): highlights from Halloween; the tree lighting ceremony in Rockville Town Square; the Rockville Chamber of Commerce Rockstar Awards; and Rockville recognizes its veterans on Veterans Day.

Mayor & Council

mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov



Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton
240-314-8291
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Councilmember Monique Ashton
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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: Monday, Dec. 5 and 12 at 7 p.m. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details.

The Dec. 12 meeting will be preceded by a drop-in session by telephone with Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and Councilmember David Myles 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 for community forum or public hearings, please email mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov by 10 a.m. on the day of.

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.

City Legislative Priorities: Schools, I-270 Project Protections, Vision Zero and Electronic Legal Notices

Rockville's 2023 state legislative priorities include education funding, mitigating the effects of the state's project to widen Interstate 270, support for Vision Zero, authorization of electronic legal notices and more. The legislative session runs from Wednesday, Jan. 11-Monday, April 10 in Annapolis. Under priorities approved by the Mayor and Council in November, the city will advocate for:

- Increased state aid for school operations and construction to support education from birth through community college, including child care.
- Vision Zero legislation that promotes safety and engineering improvements to state roads. The Mayor and Council adopted a Vision Zero plan in 2020 to eliminate traffic- and pedestrian-related deaths and serious injuries. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/visionzero.
- A repeal of the state's contributory negligence law, as it relates to compensating pedestrians, bikers and drivers injured in vehicle crashes, replacing it with a comparative negligence law.
- The mitigation of environmental, social justice and other impacts, including local traf-

fic, from the state's proposed I-495 and I-270 Managed Lanes Project. The Mayor and Council remain strongly opposed to the project and will seek to work with the incoming administration of Gov.-elect Wes Moore to rethink the project.

- An amendment to the state's "P3" public-private partnerships law to require a comprehensive financial analysis before large-scale infrastructure projects are approved.
- Legislation that addresses excessive noise cause by illegally modified vehicle exhaust systems.
- Increased funding for senior transportation services, recreation and wellness programs, senior programs in neighborhoods, aging-in-place and village initiatives, and outreach to increase awareness of these services and programs.
- Jurisdictions to be allowed to post electronic legal notices. With no local print newspapers in Montgomery County, Rockville is forced to post costly print notices in "The Washington Post."
- \$500,000 for gender-neutral restrooms at Twinbrook Community Recreation Center

continued on pg. 8...

Mayor and Council to Discuss Budget Priorities, Seek Community Input

The Mayor and Council continued their work on the city's Fiscal Year 2024 budget in November with a discussion of budget practices and policies, and this month will discuss their budget survey results and priority setting.

Find video of the practices and policies discussion with the Nov. 21 meeting listing at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Public participation in the budget process is a high priority for the Mayor and Council and city staff. A community budget priorities survey at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget allows community members to identify their budget priorities and options for maintaining a balanced budget. Survey responses provide valuable input to the Mayor and Council for their budget discussions.

The \$148.8 million budget for Fiscal Year 2023, which began July 1, keeps the city's real property tax rate of \$0.292 per \$100 of assessed valuation the same. All residential and commercial property owners pay this tax. Rockville has not in-

creased its property tax rate since 1995.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget or call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. ✚

FY 2024 Budget Calendar:

- **Monday, Dec. 12:** Discussion of Mayor and Council survey results and priority setting.
- **Monday, Feb. 27:** Presentation of city manager's proposed FY24 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program.
- **Monday, March 6:** Public hearing and work session.
- **Monday, March 20:** Work session.
- **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 for 2023 are subject to change.

Recruits Sought for Compensation Commission

Body Determines Compensation for Mayor and Council

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants to serve on the Compensation Commission, which determines annual compensation for the five elected officials of the city.

The commission consists of five members, who must be residents or have a place of business in the city.

Members' terms are staggered, with initial appointments for two, four and six years, and begin Dec. 31 of the year in which they are appointed. Terms are six years.

By city ordinance, the Compensation Commission convenes every four years to provide a recommendation to the Mayor and Council by March 31. Any change in compensation would not take effect until after the following election. The next city election is in 2023.

The Compensation Commission is required to meet before Jan. 31 in an election year. At that meeting, the commission must discuss its mission of recommending possible changes to the stipend of the mayor and councilmembers. Before making a recommendation, the commission seeks input from residents on aspects of compensating the Mayor and Council.

The Mayor and Council may choose to adopt or reject the commission's recommendation. If they take no action, the recommendation goes into effect within 60 days.

Changes in compensation take effect for the next administration of the Mayor and Council.

Learn more about the Compensation Committee's role at www.rockvillemd.gov/103/Compensation-Commission. Find out how to apply for this, or the other 21 city boards and commissions, at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions. ✚



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 boards and commissions meetings will take place virtually. See times and dates, and ways to participate on city's online calendar: www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.aspx.

- **Dec. 14 Planning Commission** 7 p.m. (Meetings will be held by teleconference. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details closer to the meeting dates.)

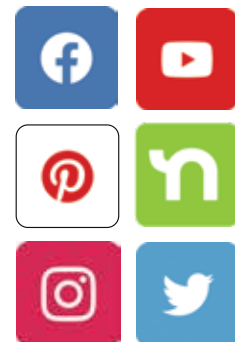
Vacancies

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

- Compensation Commission (5)
- Cultural Arts Commission (1)
- Education Commission (11)
- Environment Commission (1)
- Financial Advisory Board (1)
- Human Rights Commission (1)
- Human Services Advisory Board (1)
- Planning Commission (2)
- Senior Citizens Commission (1)
- Youth Commission (11)

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

Connect with us on Social Media.



► 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.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS: Main: 240-314-5000 Police Non-emergency: 240-314-8900
24-Hour Utility Emergency Report Hotline: 240-314-8567

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

AREA 1: Oct. 17-21; Nov. 21-25
AREA 2: Oct. 24-28; Nov. 28-Dec. 20
AREA 3: Oct. 31-Nov. 4; Dec. 5-9
AREA 4: Nov. 7-11; Dec. 12-16
AREA 5: Nov. 14-18; Dec. 19-23

See interactive map at
www.rockvillemd.gov/leafcollection.

Fall Leaf Vacuuming to Make Final Sweep This Month

The city is scheduled to conclude its fall leaf collection on Friday, Dec. 23, with crews completing the second of two rounds of vacuuming leaves from neighborhood curbs.

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, 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 recycling and trash collection day, or consider composting. Other environmentally friendly alternatives to raking, include leaving some leaves where they fall or using them as mulch in garden beds, where they provide natural habitat for beneficial insects. Mowing over the leaves can break them into tiny pieces that filter into the grass, providing much-needed nutrients.



Post-Christmas 'Tree-tment': An At-Home Way to Recycle Holiday Trees

Rockville collects Christmas trees as part of its recycling collection.

Place trees at the curb for pickup on regular recycling and trash collection days after removing all ornaments and metals, wires, stands and decorations, including tinsel. Trees should not be bagged. There is no deadline for curbside collection of trees.

While the Montgomery County Recycling Center, which formerly converted the trees into mulch, no longer offers this service, the county recommends recycling branches and needles at home by using them as ground cover under trees and shrubs or by chopping them up and adding them to a compost pile.

Artificial trees cannot be recycled and should be placed in the gray trash cart for regular weekly collection. Artificial trees that are too large to fit in the cart can be collected by appointment as one of six bulk collections allowed per year, or taken to the transfer station.

For bulk-waste disposal information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/bulkwaste.

Pedalers and Pedestrians: Sidewalks Are for Traveling by Bike or on Foot

Whether walking or bicycle riding, Rockville's sidewalks are for pedestrians and bicyclists alike.

People riding bicycles in Rockville are permitted to ride on the sidewalk, provided they yield to people walking on the sidewalk.

People may choose to ride on a sidewalk for a multitude of reasons, such as: too much motor vehicle traffic; vehicular traffic too fast for bicyclists to feel safe in the roadway; parents not wanting children to ride a bike in the street; people learning to ride a bike not wanting to risk falling in the roadway; or a sidewalk or path providing a more direct route, such as through a park.

Regardless of the reason, all people bicycling on a sidewalk must do so in a manner that does not endanger others. This means yielding to people walking on sidewalks.

If you are bicycling and see someone walking, be sure to slow down to their speed and pass them in a safe manner, yielding to them in all circumstances. If you're not sure whether you're traveling too fast to safely pass a person walking, it's best to slow down. Sometimes people walking are not aware of people on bicycles until they are right next to each other. And if you are riding in the sidewalk, keep in mind that you may be less visible to people driving. Take extra precautions when crossing the street and be sure to stay in the sidewalk or on the roadway — don't switch back and forth.

Remember that, in Rockville, sidewalks are for everybody. Share the sidewalk and share the responsibility for safe traveling.

For more info about bicycling in the city, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/bicycling.

Food Scraps Drop-Off is Open

The City of Rockville is piloting a food scraps drop-off program to make composting easy, keep valuable materials out of landfills and reduce excessive greenhouse gas emissions.

Food scraps dropped off at the city's maintenance facility 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 with a lid. (Empty coffee containers with sealing lids are great for this.) Compostable bags or paper bags containing food scraps are accepted. Visit the webpage below for details. Be sure to remove any plastic or other trash.
2. Bring full containers and empty them into the designated green bins at the Food Scraps Compost Drop-Off area at the city's maintenance facility at 14625 Rothgeb Drive. Follow the signs when you arrive. The site is accessible 24/7 and the service is free of charge.
3. Rinse your container and repeat!

Free kitchen countertop food scraps containers offered by the city last month have all been reserved. To be placed on the waitlist for a container when an additional supply is available, for a list of food scraps that can be dropped off, and to learn more about the program, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/foodscraps.



State Transportation Grants to Jump-Start Rockville Projects in the New Year

The state of Maryland recently awarded Rockville several grants for projects beginning in 2023 to improve mobility and safety for pedestrian and bicyclists.

The city received a \$52,000 grant for designing bicycle lanes along Martins Lane, from Mannakee Street to North Washington Street, and a \$42,000 grant for six permanent automatic pedestrian and bicycle counters. The counters will help track patterns and trends, including increases or decreases of walking and bicycling in the city from season to season and year to year. They will be installed at locations with regular bike and pedestrian traffic that are yet to be determined.

The grants, announced as part of the state's "Walktober" awareness campaign this fall, were part of \$2.6 million in funding for 21 projects statewide through the Maryland Department of Transportation Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Program.

Rockville also received \$312,000 through the state's Transportation Alternatives Program for a feasibility study and project design to fill in sidewalk gaps and improve intersections in Twinbrook.

These are the latest of several grants awarded this year. In June, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments awarded the city \$50,000 for a feasibility study to identify the most effective safety improvements for intersections along Beall Avenue and develop three alternative concept designs for each. In April, COG awarded the city \$60,000 for a Complete Streets feasibility study of Fleet and Monroe streets in Rockville Town Center. The study will evaluate three alternatives to improve streets, including adding features such as bike lanes; bus lanes; wider, buffered sidewalks; and traffic-calming infrastructure.

The Complete Streets approach increases bicycling facilities and multimodal travel, which can reduce speeding vehicles and help move the city towards achieving the goals of Vision Zero, a plan adopted by the Mayor and Council to eliminate traffic- and pedestrian-related deaths and serious injuries. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/visionzero.

In the months ahead, the city will conduct public meetings for each project to discuss findings and options for pedestrian and bicycle improvements.



ROCKVILLE INSTALLS RACK TO HELP WITH BIKE REPAIRS WHILE ON THE MILLENNIUM TRAIL

Your bike needs a minor adjustment while you're out on a ride, but you don't have the tools for a tune up. What do you do? For riders on the Carl Henn Millennium Trail near the Thomas Farm Community Center, the city has you covered. Rockville recently installed a bicycle repair rack at mile marker 0 on the trail, right behind the community center. The repair rack, which is free to use and has tools attached for minor repairs, is not designed for locking up bicycles, but instead is intended to help keep bicycles in working order for safe transportation and recreation. Cyclists can use the tools to complete quick fixes and maintenance, such as tightening handlebars, adjusting seat posts or removing tires. To offer questions or comments about the rack, or if you would like one near you, email bikeways@rockvillemd.gov.



ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS FOR ALL SEASONS ... For environmental news and events, and tips for helping the environment year-round, sign up to receive the city's Environment and Sustainability quarterly newsletter in your email inbox. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters and select "Environment and Sustainability."

Fight the White Stuff With a Green Game Plan

Environmentally Friendly Snow- and Ice-Removal Tips

Walking in a winter wonderland can be wonderful. But it can also prove hazardous. Follow these tips to keep your sidewalks and driveway snow- and ice-free, while minimizing the environmental impact:

Shovel Early, Shovel Often

Removing fresh snow before it has a chance to harden into ice is the best way to keep your pavement clear. Deicers work best for melting thin layers of snow or ice. So, shovel first, break up any ice patches you can and then add the salt.

Use Salt Sparingly

Scatter the deicer and leave space between the grains. A 12-ounce coffee mug full of salt is enough to treat a 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares. Using more salt than recommended won't speed up melting but can harm soil and water quality.

Buy Early and Check Labels

Buy your deicing prod-

uct before the big storm, so you won't be staring at empty shelves in the stores. Check the label before you buy. Although slightly more expensive, calcium chloride (CaCl₂) requires less salt, works at lower temperatures and does not contain cyanide, unlike sodium chloride (NaCl, also known as rock salt). Urea is sometimes promoted as lawn-friendly because excess urea will act as a fertilizer. However, the application rate for urea is far greater than the amount your lawn needs, and most of the excess urea will only end up fertilizing the stream.

Avoid Kitty Litter and Ashes

While these products are environmentally friendly, they are only marginally effective at adding traction, and don't melt ice. If you need traction, a better option is to mix in a small amount of sand and use less salt. ❄️

Season's Greenings: How to Gift Greener and Recycle This Holiday Season

Do you plan on giving new electronics as a gift for the holidays?

For products that help reduce environmental impacts and energy costs, look for Energy Star-qualified and Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool-registered products. Find more green gift ideas from Montgomery County's Gift Outside the Box Campaign at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep/gift-greener.html.

Rockville collects and recycles electronics, such as cell phones, computers, televisions and holiday lights. To make a bulk waste or electronics recycling collection appointment, call 240-314-8568.

Getting rid of old batteries? Don't dispose of them in your trash or recycling cart, where they could start

a fire. Instead, bring batteries of any size to the household hazardous waste drop-off at the county transfer station at 16105 Frederick Road.

For batteries larger than 9 volts, including rechargeable batteries found in phones, laptops and power tools, cover the terminals with packing tape or duct tape and place them in a plastic bag or container, separate from batteries that don't require being taped. Find more information, including locations that accept batteries for recycling, at bit.ly/BatteryDisposal.

For more information on recycling and trash service, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash, or see the 2023 schedule on page 2 and the Christmas tree collection article on page 4. ❄️

Season's Eating: Sustainable Cooking Tips

When preparing a holiday feast – or any big meal – follow these simple tips to make it more sustainable:

- Reduce food waste by buying and preparing only what you need.
- Scrape fats, oils and grease into the trash or a sealable can. Never pour fats, oils or grease down the drain where they can lead to clogged pipes and sewer backups.
- Bake several dishes in

the oven at a time to save energy.

- Use dishes, glassware, flatware, tablecloths and cloth napkins instead of disposable items.
- Make creative centerpiece out of things you find around the house or in the yard, such as pine cones, leaves and branches.
- Encourage guests to take home leftovers or store them in the freezer to enjoy later. ❄️

Where to Go When It Snows: Be In-the-Know About Winter Weather

Quick Links, Facts and Phone Numbers

When winter weather strikes, turn to the city's website at www.rockvillemd.gov.

Closure and snow emergency information will be available on the website, as well as through Facebook (www.facebook.com/cityofrockville) and Twitter (@rockville411), and by signing up for Alert Rockville notifications at www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts.

City crews treat and plow roads in priority order. First are primary roads, including major arterial roads, emergency routes, central business districts and primary residential roads near schools. Next are secondary roads, including the remainder of neighborhood streets, alleyways and cul-de-sacs. To check if an address is within the city limits, find the Address and Residency Check map at www.rockvillemd.gov/maps.

Removing snow from sidewalks, driveways and entrances is the responsibility of the property and/or business owner or a community association. Rockville requires that snow and ice be removed from sidewalks, steps, driveways, parking spaces and similar paved areas for public use within 24 hours after a snowfall of up to three inches, within 48 hours after a snow-



fall of three to 10 inches, and within 72 hours after a snowfall of more than 10 inches. If residents can do so, they should clear snow from around fire hydrants and storm drains. To report a sidewalk that has not been cleared within the required timeframe, call 240-314-8330.

Residents are encouraged to check on older neighbors who may need assistance clearing snow. For information about the city's volunteer snow shoveling for seniors, visit RockvilleReports.com/volunteer-to-shovel-snow. ❄️

NUMBERS TO KNOW

Emergency	911
Report a Downed Tree or Branch to the City ..	240-314-8700
Public Works	240-314-8500
Water Main Breaks/Sewer Line Overflows	240-314-8567
Rockville City Police (non-emergency) ..	240-314-8900
Recreation Programs Cancellation Line ..	240-314-5023
Rockville City Hall ..	240-314-5000
Report a Power Outage or Downed Wire to Pepco	1-877-737-2662
Montgomery Co. Hypothermia Alerts (report safety concerns for people or pets)	301-279-8000



Don't Let a Clog Become an Unwanted Holiday Guest

When the holiday feast is finished, don't pour fats, oils and grease, i.e., FOG, down the drain.

FOG, including sauces, gravy and salad dressings, can trap solids, form hard deposits and clog pipes, causing basement backups, sewer overflows and costly damage to city infrastructure and private property.

Before washing dishes, scrape food and grease into a trash can, use a paper towel to wipe away oil, or pour FOG into an empty can, let it cool to solidify and dispose of it.

Throwing It Away? Be Cart Smart

Throwing out plastic bags, clothes, garden hoses, needles or medical sharps? Don't use the city-provided brown recycling cart – put them in the gray trash cart.

When using the gray cart to dispose of needles, help keep our recycling and trash collection crews safe. Workers can get stuck by medical sharps and syringes that are not in suitable disposal containers. To dispose of medical sharps and syringes, use containers made of heavy-duty plastic that close tightly with a puncture-proof lid. Label the container and place it in the middle of your household trash in the gray trash cart – or find a disposal program. For community guidelines about safe disposal, visit bit.ly/howtorecyclesharps.

Got a city recycling or trash cart that's falling apart? Damaged lift bars on city recycling or trash carts can cut customers and crew members. Call 240-314-8568. We'll replace it for you.

To find a nearby grocery store that accepts plastic bags for recycling, visit bit.ly/howtorecyclebags.

'Volunteer Rockville' Has Good News to Peruse About Help We Could Use

Looking to lend your time, talents and expertise to the City of Rockville? Look no further than "Volunteer Rockville," the city's email newsletter that presents volunteering news and opportunities to serve your city.

The bimonthly newsletter delivers to your inbox news about nonprofits, city and community programs seeking volunteers, Student Service Learning credit opportunities, and profiles of volunteers and organizations serving as agents of change in our community.

To sign up to receive the newsletter in your inbox, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters and select "Volunteering."



DECKING THE HALLS AND LIGHTING THE LIGHTS ... Rockville kicked off the holiday season in late November with its annual tradition, the Rockville Town Square Holiday Tree Lighting.



PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS FROM THE COLD ... Montgomery County issues hypothermia alerts when temperatures and/or wind chill are expected to be at or below 32 degrees. Call 301-279-8000 to report a safety concern for a person or a pet. Learn more at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OPI/alerts/hypothermia.html.



Lace Up your Skates: The Town Square Ice Rink is Open!

The Rockville Town Square ice rink is open for the season at 131 Gibbs St. At 7,200 square feet and 120 feet long, the rink is the largest outdoor rink in Montgomery County and has been an annual winter attraction for more than a decade. Rink hours are noon-10 p.m. Monday to Thursday; noon-11 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$11 for adults, and \$10 for seniors and children 12 and younger. Skate rental is \$5. Parking in Rockville Town Square garages is free for the first two hours. Visit www.rockvilletownsquare.com for more information about Rockville Town Square.

Discover a Church's History in Stained Glass at Glenview in January

Rockville history comes alive through stained glass in January as the Glenview Mansion and Peerless Rockville Speaker Series hosts "History and Stained Glass of Jerusalem-Mt. Pleasant Church." Chiquita Sorrels, historian of Jerusalem-Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, will deliver an illustrated presentation that explores the church's history with a focus on its stained-glass windows. The in-person presentation, at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12 at Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, will explore how the church evolved from its founding in 1835 with a racially mixed congregation to an all-Black congregation after the Civil War and, in the 20th century, added stained-glass windows memorializing individuals and organizations in the community. The event is free, but registration is requested at www.eventbrite.com/e/465821844677. For more information, call Glenview Mansion at 240-314-8660.



ROCK ON, ROCKSTARS! ... Each year the Greater Rockville Chamber of Commerce recognizes outstanding businesses in the city through its Rockstar Awards. Find a roundup of this year's winners as Rockville 11 takes you to the awards dinner at youtu.be/sp2oW48zidA.

Rockville Events Celebrate Winter and the Holidays

Winter Jubilee Welcomes in the Holidays

Celebrate the season with interactive merriment at the Winter Jubilee, at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Social Hall, 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17.

Get your pictures taken with costumed characters, including balloon-twisting elves. Play games in the theater lobby. Have your face painted and create your own art with fun crafts projects in the social hall. Admission for children is \$6 for residents, \$8 for nonresidents. Adults 18 and older are free. Preregister with course #20611 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

Rockville Civic Ballet Presents 'The Nutcracker'

2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 3 and 10; 2 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 4 and 11. Tickets cost \$17; \$13, children 12 and younger and seniors 60 and older. Join Clara on her magi-

cal journey. Directed by Eleanor Simpson and Erin Kwong. Learn more about the Rockville Civic Ballet at friendsrcb.org. Assigned seat tickets are available for purchase, by phone, in-person or at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre.

Glenview Mansion Art Gallery

The Rockville Art League Juried Members' Winter Show will feature varied media, Sunday, Dec. 4-Friday, Jan. 13. Meet the artists from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. The gallery is closed on official city holidays.

Rockville Concert Band Presents 'Holiday Themes'

3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18. No tickets required; \$5 suggested donation. Some of the most beloved themes of the merry holidays, directed by Juan Gallastegui.



Rockville Chorus Presents 'Celebration of Light'

7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18. No tickets required but donations are greatly appreciated. Directed by Linda Garrettson. Learn more about the chorus at www.rockvillechorus.com.

Buy tickets online and learn more 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 info, email theatre@rockvillemd.gov.



Manage Diabetes, be Grateful and Breathe Better, This Month at the Senior Center

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

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.

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

Diabetes Management and Healthy Eating

Join Dr. Carlos Martinez of CAM Physical Therapy to learn how to prevent and manage diabetes through exercise and healthy eating. Register with course

#24655. Wednesday, Dec. 7.

The Practice of Being Grateful

Reflect on 2022 and learn how introspection, affirmation and hope can set the tone for a wonderful new year. Discuss ways to appreciate the world around you and how the practice of being grateful can help you toward a deeper connection to living. Presented by Adventist HealthCare.

Register with course #24085. Tuesday, Dec. 13.

Better Breather's Club

Educational presentations on relevant topics for respiratory and lung issues, facilitated by an American Lung Association instructor. Meets on the third Thursday of each month.

Register with course #24074. Thursday, Dec. 15.

Connect with us on Social Media.

WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING THIS MONTH? Human Rights day and month, of course, and the holidays, but also December is the month for AIDS awareness, root vegetables and exotic fruits, worldwide food service safety, ties, pears, and car donation. This is also the month for spiritual literacy, writing a business plan and Operation Santa Paws, encouraging us to donate items to our furry friends in animal shelters.

December 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



1,17 **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 and adult participation are required. Ages 2-5. Register with course #24596. \$8 R/\$10 NR. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

3 **HOLIDAY BAZAAR** See ad on page 6. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. **SR**

3,4,10,11 **ROCKVILLE CIVIC BALLET PRESENTS "THE NUTCRACKER"** See article on page 6. **FSF**

4 **MEET THE ARTISTS** See article on page 6. 1:30-3:30 p.m. **GM**

4 **FAMILIES OUTSIDE: READY FOR WINTER** Explore John Hayes Forest Preserve habitats with naturalist-led nature outings that will help you and your family enjoy the wonders surrounding the center. Adults and children must register and all children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 3 and older. Register with course #24605. \$5 R/\$6 NR. 2-3 p.m. **CC**

5,13 **CREATING HOLIDAY LABELS** 'Tis the season! Let us take you step by step through how to make festive labels to send cards and gifts during the holiday season. Register with course #24043. \$9 M/\$15 NM. 10 a.m.-noon **SR**

5 **MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING** 7 p.m. **CH**

7 **DIABETES MANAGEMENT AND HEALTHY EATING** See article on page 6. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

8 **V** **ELECTRIC VEHICLE PLAN VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE** Join this virtual meeting to learn how the city is preparing to support the rapid transition to clean energy vehicles. Help guide the plan by asking questions and providing comments on the plan's development. 7-8:30 p.m. See article on page 2.

11 **NATURAL HOLIDAY CRAFTS** Spend the afternoon using a variety of natural or recycled objects to make holiday crafts and ornaments. Each participant will complete at least three projects. Adult participation is required for children younger than 8. Register by Dec. 4. Ages 6-12. Register with course #24620. R \$12/NR \$14. 2-3:30 p.m. **CC**

12 **CELEBRATION AND THANKS FOR STATE DEL. JIM GILCHRIST** See ad on page 2. 6 p.m. **CH**

12 **MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING** 7 p.m. **CH**

16 **DEADLINE FOR COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS** See article on page 8.

17 **WINTER JUBILEE** See article on page 6. 1-4 p.m. **FSF**

18 **CHANUKAH CELEBRATION** and menorah lighting presented by the Chabad Israeli Center of Rockville. 4:30 p.m. Rockville Town Square, 131 Gibbs St. Free.

18 **ROCKVILLE CONCERT BAND PRESENTS "HOLIDAY THEMES"** See the article on page 6. 3-4 p.m. **FSF**

18 **THE ROCKVILLE CHORUS PRESENTS "CELEBRATION OF LIGHT"** See the article on page 6. 7:30-8:30 p.m. **FSF**

19 **V** **WALKING THROUGH THE WINTER WONDERLANDS** A virtual walk while viewing beautiful winter scenery from different parts of the world. Walk more than two miles in the comfort of your home. Seated instruction will also be available. Register with course #23801. 10-11 a.m. **SR**

19 **CAPITOL CAROLLERS** Capitol Carollers sing classic, secular and international holiday pieces with gorgeous harmonies and beautiful arrangements. Listen or join in. Register with course #24796. 2-3 p.m. **SR**

23 **FALL LEAF COLLECTION CONCLUDES** See article on page 4.

24,25,26,31 **CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY.** City Hall and other facilities closed. See article on page 1.

31 **CRITTERS AND COCOA** Ring in the new year with the animals and a cup of hot cocoa. Take an up-close look at some of our animal ambassadors, and learn their stories and what they teach us about their wild counterparts. Ages 2 and older. All participants must register. Register with course #25352. \$4 R/\$5 NR. 10-11 a.m. **CC**



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

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

The Year in Review

continued from pg. 1...

by Montgomery County.

City staff presented details of Rockville's Flood Resiliency Program to the Mayor and Council. The citywide program, which provides property owners with grants for building improvements aimed at preventing flood damage, is part of the city's plan to mitigate the impacts of flooding caused by more frequent and extreme storms. Funding for the plan and grant program is included in the city's Fiscal Year 2023 budget.

Contractors installed new energy-efficient light-emitting diode, also known as LED, lights with occupancy sensors at City Hall. The project upgraded 325 interior light fixtures on the second floor, including 256 sensors to reduce energy costs, maintenance and greenhouse gas emissions.

APRIL

Rockville's Procurement Division debuted a new gateway offering tools to make it easier for vendors to do business with the city. The eSourcing and Vendor Collaboration Gateway allows vendors to submit electronic bids and proposals and conduct procurement via an online portal at www.rockvillemd.gov/procurement.

Two community meetings in April allowed the public to give their thoughts on proposed alternatives for the future of the 131-acre RedGate Park.

The Mayor and Council unanimously approved the creation of an 11-member Education Commission to support City of Rockville students. The commission is intended to maintain and grow collaborative relationships among the county's board of education, Montgomery County Public Schools, private and nonprofit schools, Montgomery College, parent-teacher associations, private and nonprofit school

boards, home-school communities, and providers of early child care and education programs in Rockville.

MAY

Tyree Davis IV joined the City of Rockville to help further the Mayor and Council's priorities of establishing equity and inclusion as shared values. Davis' formal title is "Advisor to the City Manager for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion." This new position is the first of its kind in Rockville government.

The Mayor and Council in May adopted a \$148.8 million city budget that maintained city services, addressed COVID-19 pandemic recovery, and focused on priorities such as implementing the Comprehensive Plan, environmental sustainability and the Climate Action Plan, Vision Zero, economic development, and financial sustainability.

JUNE

The city's Department of Public Works held a dedication ceremony for their fleet's newest machine: a paver dedicated to the life and legacy of Wayne Butler Jr., a public works streets crew supervisor who died in February.

The Mayor and Council cut the ribbon to open two new soccer courts at Welsh Park. The courts are the first dedicated soccer courts of their kind in Rockville. They are adjacent to the park's tennis courts, and Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, at 355 Martins Lane.

Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and city staff welcomed Mithran Karthic, winner of the "If I Were Mayor..." essay contest, to Rockville City Hall. Mithran, a fourth-grader at College Gardens Elementary School, earned the right to serve as Rockville's Mayor for a Day, fielding his first on-camera interview and visiting

continued on pg. 8...

Community Organizations Invited to Apply for Grants

The City of Rockville provides grants annually to local organizations that partner with the city to enhance quality of life of Rockville residents. Nonprofits supporting the advancement of education and community engagement are welcome to apply. Applications are being accepted for Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024). To be eligible for a grant, organizations must provide services to Rockville residents and complete an online application. Applicants will have the opportunity to speak in support of their grant request at a public hearing for the budget in spring 2023. Applications are due by 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16. For more information, contact management assistant/community support advocate Mary Grace Sabol at msabol@rockvillemd.gov. Find an online application at www.rockvillemd.gov/communityorggrant.

MLK Day Celebration Offers an Opportunity to Serve

Rockville will honor Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and legacy as the city holds its 51st annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration with a ceremony on Monday, Jan. 16, and a week of service activities. King recognized the power of service. The civil rights leader famously said, "Everyone can be great because everybody can serve." In 1994, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act to designate the federal holiday as a national day of service. By observing Martin Luther King Jr. Day through service activities, Rockville begins each year with a commitment to making our community a better place. The city is sponsoring six service activities in which the community can participate. (Some of these activities are weather dependent and may be rescheduled). They are:

- Creating winter kits for unsheltered veterans.
- Partnering with Project Linus to make blankets for sick children.
- A trail cleanup to remove trash from the Hayes Forest Preserve at Croydon Creek Nature Center.
- A Weed Warriors invasive plant pull at a city park.
- Meal packaging with nonprofit Rise Against Hunger, a global effort to end hunger.
- Bringing dry or canned food on Jan. 16 to the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration at Richard Montgomery High School. Learn more about the ceremony in the article on this page.

For more information, and to register to participate in a service activity, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.

Legislative Session

as part of the Mayor and Council's priority of providing a welcoming and socially equitable community for all. Rockville is also supporting Maryland Municipal League-backed legislation to revise state law so that municipalities have the option of creating their own police accountability board and administrative charging committee. For more information, find video of the Mayor and Council's priorities discussion and staff reports at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter, or contact Linda Moran at lmoran@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314- 8115.

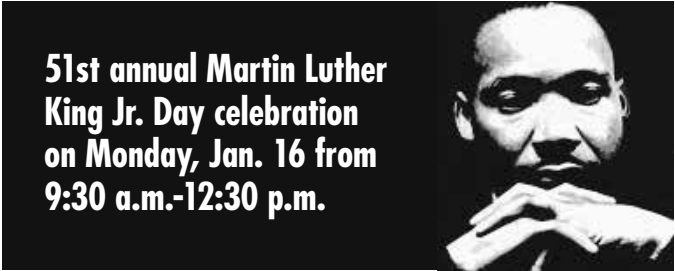


Questions, Concerns or Ideas? Reach out to Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito at rdispirito@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8102.

Rockville's MLK Day to Celebrate 'Boldly Imagining Our Future'

Rockville will celebrate the life and legacy of a civil rights leader with the city's 51st annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration on Monday, Jan. 16. The celebration, which is free and open to all, will be held from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive. The program begins at 10:30 a.m. It is sponsored by the city's Human Rights Commission and will feature performances, awards, a keynote speaker, interactive booths from community organizations

and a continental breakfast, while supplies last. The celebration's theme of "Boldly Imagining Our Future" invites courage, creativity and curiosity as our community considers the work before us. It asks us to consider what lessons we can bring from the civil rights movement into the advocacy of today, as millennials and Gen Z have ushered in a new era of disruption and activism for racial, economic, social, gender and disability justice. The ceremony will include the presentation of two awards. The Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Award will recognize a



student at a Rockville high school who has worked to fulfill King's dream in either their school or the community. The F. Michael Taff Award will be presented to an individual, organization or business that has helped to improve the lives of people with disabilities, such as through efforts to improve accessibility or raise public awareness. The city will also honor

King's legacy with service activities. See the article on this page for more information. The celebration will offer tables for nonprofit 501(c) organizations that promote the values instilled by King. Tables are free, but must be reserved by Friday, Dec. 16. Find applications and learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk.

The Year in Review

the Rockville City Police Department, the city's maintenance facility, and Croydon Creek Nature Center, before attending the evening's Mayor and Council meeting.

JULY

The Fox 5 morning show brought its Zip Trip live broadcast to Rockville Town Square to highlight Montgomery County and the City of Rockville. The city celebrated a milestone July 11 as the Department of Public Works Department replaced Rockville's last low-flow fire hydrant. The achievement, nearly a decade-and-a-half in the making, underscores the Mayor and Council's commitment to maintaining Rockville's infrastructure through its water main rehabilitation program. The Good Neighbor Awards, held July 19 at Glenview Mansion, recognized 23 residents who gave back and improved the quality of life in their neighborhoods through good deeds or community service. The Mayor and Council adopted an ordinance that applies Montgomery

County's home energy disclosure and radon testing laws to the sale of single-family homes and townhomes in Rockville. The change provides home buyers with access to important home health and energy information. It takes effect Sunday, Jan. 1.

AUGUST

In their ongoing fight to bring awareness to the national impact of opioid addiction and signal hope for recovery, Rockville's Mayor and Council proclaimed September as National Recovery Month at their Monday, Aug. 1 meeting. Lights at City Hall, the Rockville City Police Department headquarters and other city facilities once again shone purple throughout September.

SEPTEMBER

The City of Rockville was awarded an American Planning Association Award from the APA's National Capital Area Chapter for Excellence in Planning for the city's Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The award highlights the significant and successful efforts of the Mayor and Council, Planning Commission, staff and community, along with

numerous other stakeholders, to produce a document that lays out Rockville's vision for its future. With the arrival of the fall planting season in September, city contractors began landscaping as the final phase of improvements to the Mt. Vernon stormwater management facility. Mt. Vernon Place reopened to through traffic in late August after city contractors replaced a culvert at the stream crossing near Elwood Smith Park's baseball/softball field and deepened portions of the pond to increase the stormwater management facility's water quality treatment capacity. The Mayor and Council celebrated the reopening of Parkside Landing Apartments in September. Originally built in 1961 as Fireside Park Apartments, a 2018 fire destroyed three of the buildings, comprising 32 apartments, displacing families. The property has been owned by Rockville Housing Enterprises, the housing authority for the City of Rockville, since 2012. The Mayor and Council thanked Rockville's volunteers for serving our city, during an appreciation party on Sept. 14 at Glenview Mansion. More than 2,600 volunteers

helped in Rockville during the fiscal year that concluded June 30, resulting in an estimated savings to the city of more than \$1 million.

OCTOBER

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival honored acclaimed National Book Award- and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Powers with the 2022 F. Scott Fitzgerald Award for Achievement in American Literature. The award has been presented to some of America's most distinguished writers, including Richard Russo, Annie Proulx, Norman Mailer, Pat Conroy, John Updike, Joyce Carol Oates, Grace Paley and Amy Tan.

NOVEMBER

Rockville's Holiday Drive returned. For nearly a half century, through the Holiday Drive, the city has brought the community together each year to provide food baskets, gift certificates and toys to needy Rockville families throughout the Thanksgiving and December holidays.

DECEMBER

See December's highlights in this edition!



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

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BACK IN THE DAY ... A delegation of visitors from Jiaxing, China, spent a November weekend of 2012 with Rockville residents and leaders. The City of Rockville and the Rockville Sister City Corporation hosted an international friendship dinner for the group and the city dedicated a peony garden at Glenview Mansion with the visitors.