



RockvilleReports

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City of Rockville 2024 Year in Review

JANUARY

The City of Rockville moved forward with citywide projects focused on making all forms of mobility safer for all users as part of the city's Vision Zero initiative. Adopted in 2020 by the Mayor and Council, the plan seeks to eliminate traffic-related deaths and serious injuries and was discussed with the Mayor and Council in a report by the city's Vision Zero coordinator.

The first phase of a project to rewrite and update Rockville's zoning ordinance was completed, resulting in a zoning diagnostic report that served as a roadmap for the next phase, known as "Calibrate."

The Compliance Engine continued to improve fire safety in Rockville, achieving a 30% reduction in unwanted fire alarm and sprinkler activations citywide. The service allows oversight by Rockville's fire marshal and Inspection Services Division of fire alarm, sprinkler, smoke control and commercial cooking extinguisher systems installed within commercial and multi-family dwellings in the City of Rockville.

More than 100 people volunteered and 147 individuals and organizations that donated delivered a brighter Thanksgiving and Christmas for those in need in Rockville through the 2023 Holiday Drive. Thirty-one organizations and individuals were recognized with certificates and plaques based on their level of donations.

Rockville volunteers carried on the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. A week of activities coinciding with the city's 52nd annual celebration of King's life saw 175 volunteers participate in several service projects. Volunteers partnered with Project Linus to make 150 blankets for sick children, donated about 80 backpacks filled with items for children entering the foster care system for distribution by Comfort Cases, created 50 survival kits for unsheltered veterans and pulled invasive plants from a city park. Learn more about volunteering in Rockville at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.

The search continued for a new city manager following Rob

DiSpirito's resignation in August 2023. A survey gathered community feedback about the traits, qualities and characteristics they wished to see in a city manager, and the priorities the new city manager should address.

FEBRUARY

In an ongoing effort to reduce the number of speeding vehicles in Rockville neighborhoods, the Rockville City Police Department deployed a new speed monitoring system in the 2500 block of Wootton Parkway, near its intersection with Fairwood Court.

The RCPD's commitment to community policing resulted in reduced crime rates for 2023, Chief Victor V. Brito told the Mayor and Council while 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. "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."

MARCH

Rockville turned out the lights to observe Earth Hour, an international effort in support of climate change action.

Community members learned about ongoing transportation safety improvement projects across Rockville when the city hosted public meetings. The projects are part of the city's Vision Zero Action Plan to eliminate traffic-related deaths and serious injuries.

A federal grant announced this month will help Rockville with feasibility planning and design for a proposed bridge to connect Twinbrook with Rockville Pike. Rockville was awarded \$568,000 through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant Program.

The State Highway Administration approved Rockville's request for a speed limit reduction on a busy stretch of Veirs Mill Road in Twinbrook.

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Rockville Holiday Drive Continues into Gift-Giving Season

Donations are being accepted for the 2024 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.

In what has become an annual tradition, businesses, individuals, civic groups, schools, foundations and the faith community, as well as individuals, contribute time and resources to make the holidays special for the less fortunate in the area.

Rockville's community warmth and holiday spirit were on display during the 2023 Holiday Drive, with a total of 147 donors and a total cash amount of \$34,722 raised to support families and people in need throughout November and December.

In November, 694 families (2,396 individuals within the households) were served. In December, 1,279 children from 492 families were helped.

How to get involved:

- **Send a contribution:** Tax-deductible monetary contributions will be used to buy books and gift cards in

December. Donations can be made online at www.rockvillemd.gov/holidaydrive.

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.

- **Volunteering:** Sort and bag toys, books and/or deliver them to housebound residents. Visit Rockville's volunteer website to sign up at cityofrockville.galaxydigital.com/need.

- **Donate toys and books:** Drop off new or gently used toys and books at one of the following city buildings: City Hall, Thomas Farm Community Center, Lincoln Park Community Center, Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, or Rockville Senior Center. Donations will be accepted until Friday, Dec. 13.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/holidaydrive or call 240-314-8300. 🎄



CELEBRATING AND CREATING ASPHALT ART IN TOWN CENTER ...

Community members, artists, members of the Mayor and Council, and city staff gathered Nov. 10 to celebrate and dedicate a new mural along the Beall Avenue roadway in Rockville Town Center. The street festival featured a community chalk art activity on Gibbs Street and celebrated the mural project, which used a \$25,000 grant from the Bloomberg Asphalt Art Initiative and funding from Rockville's Art in Public Places to revitalize the Beall Avenue streetscape with color and creativity. Attendees met the mural artists and got an up-close look at the mural, as well as traffic-calming features and other safety improvements made by the city that create a safer Beall Avenue between MD 355/Hungerford Drive and North Washington Street. Find more coverage of the celebration on city social media and at youtube.com/cityofrockville. Search "Asphalt Art." Learn more about the Beall Avenue Asphalt Art Initiative at bit.ly/RkvAsphaltArt.

Christmas and New Year's Closures in Rockville

City government and all city facilities will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 25 for Christmas and Wednesday, Jan. 1 for New Year's.

In addition, City Hall will close from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12 for an employee recognition event.

During the Christmas and New Year's holiday weeks, recycling, trash and yard waste collection will occur Monday and Tuesday as scheduled. Wednesday and Thursday collections will be made one day later than usual. For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash or call 240-314-8568.

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

The Rockville Senior Center and fitness room, Glenview Mansion, and the Rockville Civic Center business office will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, as will the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre box office. The box office will relocate to the Rockville Civic Center Cottage behind Glenview Mansion beginning Tuesday, Dec. 17 while the theater undergoes renovations. Tickets are always available for purchase at fscottfitzgerald.showare.com. Learn more about the renovations at www.rockvillemd.gov/theater.

Several facilities will offer limited holiday hours:

Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm
continued on pg. 2...

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- 6** Senior Wellness and Performances

MAYOR & COUNCIL
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Save the Date for Rockville's Lunar New Year Celebration

Celebrate Rockville's Asian cultures at the city's Lunar New Year celebration. The annual celebration will be held from 3-5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1, at Rockville High School, 2100 Baltimore Road. Multicultural performances will be presented from 3:30-4:45 p.m. The celebration will also include interactive displays, crafts for kids and to-go snack boxes, while supplies last. Admission is free. In its 17th year, the Lunar New Year celebration is a source of pride for the city's Asian community and an educational opportunity for neighbors to learn about Asian culture. The city is organizing the celebration in partnership with Rockville's Asian Pacific American Task Force. The celebration will mark the Year of the Snake on the Chinese Zodiac calendar. Local nonprofit 501(c) organizations may apply to host a display table at the celebration. Applications must be submitted by Friday, Jan. 10. Learn more in the community group application form at www.rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear.

Helping RCPD Take the Plunge

Help the Rockville City Police Department take the plunge at the Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge. **When:** Friday, Jan. 31. **Where:** Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis. **How to Contribute:** Pledge in support of Rockville's plunge team and support Special Olympics Maryland. Visit support.somd.org/team/619198.

December Hours of Operation

continued from pg. 1... and Twinbrook community centers will be open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays, Dec. 24 and 31; and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 26. Croydon Creek Nature Center and will be open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 24, 26 and 31. The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will be open with limited hours and services on Dec. 24 and 31. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter for details. The Rockville Skate Park will be closed Dec. 24 and will close at 7 p.m. Dec. 31. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-5000. ❄️

ROCKVILLE TOWN SQUARE PARKING

2 HOURS OF FREE PARKING

NO VALIDATION REQUIRED



Get Involved in Your **Community**

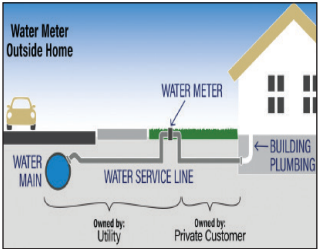
Join a Rockville Board or Commission!

Rockville 11 highlights how the **Landlord-Tenant Affairs Commission** is helping resolve disputes between landlords and tenants.

Search "Landlord-Tenant Affairs Commission" at youtube.com/cityofrockville.



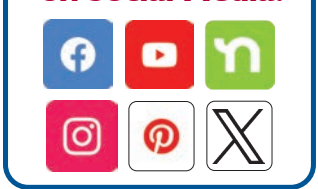
Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/boards or scan the QR code to volunteer.



Help the City With Its Drinking Water Service Line Inventory

Rockville recently sent notices to nearly 8,300 city water customers requesting their help in determining and reporting the material used in their drinking water service lines. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's recent Lead and Copper Rule Revisions require water service providers to inventory all lines in their distribution system on both public and private property. The city has not identified any lead service lines in Rockville's system. However, the notices inform customers that their service line is of an unknown material. They provide instructions for customers to use to identify their service line material, complete a survey to report the material and request free water testing for the presence of lead. Customers who complete the survey by Sunday, Dec. 15 will receive a \$30 credit on their water/sewer bill. A service line inventory map at www.rockvillemd.gov/LCRR allows users to review information the city has on file regarding the material used in service lines on public and private property. The webpage also includes how-to videos for identifying and reporting service line material and a link to the survey for reporting the material. Customers not served by the city will receive updates and notifications from WSSC Water, which serves about 30% of the City of Rockville. Find more information from WSSC Water at wsscwater.com/lead. For more information, email LCRR@rockvillemd.gov or call the city's Department of Public Works at 240-314-8500. ❄️

Connect with us on Social Media.



2024 Yearly Roundup

continued from pg. 1... The speed limit is now 35 mph, down from 40 mph, between Edmonston Drive and Twinbrook Parkway. The change made the speed limit consistent with that of other sections of the road, which is also known as MD 586. Rockville's Mayor and Council, city leadership, and leadership from Rockville Economic Development, Inc., attended Government Alliance on Race and Equity training at VisArts in Rockville Town Square. The GARE training introduced roles, responsibilities and opportunities for government to advance racial equity. In a move to protect renters, the Mayor and Council adopted 2.6% as the Voluntary Rent Guideline for 2024. **APRIL** Earth Day was celebrated with stream cleanups, non-native plant removal workdays and plogging (committing to cleaning up litter during walks, jogging or running through Rockville). The Rockville Civic Ballet celebrated its 50th anniversary, receiving a certificate of recognition from the Mayor and Council. The certificate was presented to Rockville Civic Ballet directors Eleanor Simpson and Erin Kwong, who grew up in the ballet company under the leadership of founder and artistic director Claudia Mangan. Using a survey, the city solicited the community's input on how best to integrate artistic elements into a broader roadway improvement project for Beall Avenue to improve traffic and pedestrian safety in the area. (*See how it turned out on page 1.*) The project aims to improve safety and make the street more attractive for residents, visitors and businesses. 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, a progress report made to the Mayor and Council stated. Rockville 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. The City of Rockville received more than \$3.9 million

in federal earmark funding for a new emergency operations center, police radios, water main and sewer line rehabilitation, and storm drain improvements in the Potomac Woods neighborhood. Earmarks allow members of Congress to request a portion of federal spending to be directed to specific projects or programs. State aid for improvements to David Scull Park and legislation supporting the city's affordable housing, climate action and Vision Zero efforts were among wins for Rockville during the Maryland General Assembly session. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Transportation Land-Use Connections Program awarded Rockville \$80,000 for a Complete Streets feasibility study of Congressional Lane. The Complete Streets approach can reduce speeding vehicles by identifying potential improvements to help people drive, walk, roll, bike and use transit more safely. The study will examine the full length of Congressional Lane, from Rollins Avenue to Rockville Pike (MD 355), assessing roadway conditions and evaluating the impact of potential improvements on multiple modes of transportation. Pepco officials joined members of Rockville's Mayor and Council and city staff, mid-April, for a ribbon-cutting of two electric vehicle chargers on Vinson Street, adjacent to City Hall. **MAY** After more than a decade at the helm of Rockville's Department of Recreation and Parks as director, Tim Chesnutt retired. 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. The two-day Hometown Holidays Music Fest, featuring local flavor, two stages of entertainment by local acts, the Taste of Rockville and activities for kids, returned to RedGate Park with headlin-

ers, alt-rockers Everclear. The annual Equipment Show at Mattie J. T. Stepanek Park let attendees see what it was like to sit in the cabs of some of the big trucks used by Rockville's Department of Public Works. The Mayor and Council emerged from discussions with guiding principles that informed the development and adoption of the city's Fiscal Year 2025 budget. They include three focus areas: public safety, economic development and housing; and two guiding principles: effective and efficient service delivery and stewardship of the environment and infrastructure. The Mayor and Council and the city's Environment Commission honored Terry Pinkston, Jyoti Bisbey and Westmore Commercial Condominium Association, Inc., with Environmental Excellence Awards recognizing their contributions to Rockville's environmental health and sustainability. A monthlong national celebration of the benefits of protecting historic buildings and structures concluded with the Rockville Historic District Commission's seminar, "ABCs of Historic Preservation." The hybrid event, which gave members of the community an overview of historic preservation practices in Rockville, is available on Rockville 11's YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/cityofrockville. Search for "ABCs." **JUNE** Jeff Mihelich, who has more than three decades of experience in city management, became Rockville's new city manager. The Mayor and Council unanimously voted to appoint Mihelich, who started this July. A new web-based platform that automates public records requests enhanced Rockville's ability to respond to the public efficiently and effectively. The public has a legal right to access records the city creates in the transaction of public business, unless the record is protected by law. Visit www.rockville.md.gov/mpia for more information. The city launched a new community enhancement code enforcement webpage that provides comprehensive information on maintaining property standards, *continued on pg. 7...*

SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY ... The Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland honored Rockville as a Sustainable Maryland community at the Maryland Municipal League's Fall Conference last month. The city, one of 17 municipalities recognized, was certified at the Silver level. Rockville scored points for a variety of sustainability actions, from its public art to its backyard chicken ordinance to efforts to convert city fleet vehicles to electric. Learn more at bit.ly/SustainableMDRkv2024.





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REDI and Mayor and Council Discuss Focus Areas for Economic Growth

Members of Rockville Economic Development, Inc.'s board and staff joined the Mayor and Council on Oct. 21 for a work session to discuss the focus of REDI's economic development efforts.

Those areas for Fiscal Year 2025, which began July 1, are: life science/biotech, small-scale manufacturing, small business and clean technology.

The city's life science/biotech sector comprises over 120 firms and is part of a region that ranks No. 3 in the United States for life science. As the public-private partnership charged with helping businesses launch, locate and expand in Rockville, REDI's efforts include creating a branded identity, sense of community and networking opportunities for Rockville's biotech/life science industry; adding to the tax base and jobs market; filling vacant real estate space; spurring investment in redevelopment; and supporting the development and growth of entrepreneurs and small businesses.

REDI also provides technical support to the city's approximately 300 small-scale manufacturing businesses and is creating opportunities for those businesses to interact with each other.

Efforts to support small business and entrepreneurship include fostering a strong entre-

preneurial ecosystem through technical assistance and programs such as the Maryland Women's Business Center, incentive programs and the Explore Rockville website, which is part of a campaign to market the city as a place to visit, live or locate a business.

In addition, REDI is researching and developing a strategy to support job and business growth in the clean technology sector.

The Mayor and Council received an overview from the board of the life science branding project, the Rock East District Boost Report and REDI's annual report for Fiscal Year 2024, which ended June 30. The information outlines REDI's efforts to grow Rockville's economy through incentive grants, engagement, analysis, business counseling and training. It further details REDI's life science branding project to address global messaging challenges and attract businesses, and a study of Rockville's competitive advantage in providing light industrial real estate options to meet small-scale manufacturing business needs.

Find the Oct. 21 presentation and annual report at www.rockvilleredi.org/research-data. For video of the work session, find the Oct. 21 Mayor and Council meeting listing at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. 🌸

Rockville Scores Top Marks Again for Commitment to LGBTQ+ Community

Rockville has scored 100 marks for the city's commitment to the health, welfare, safety and equality of its lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community in its seventh year of participation in, and the 13th year for, the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index.

Rockville scored 99 out of 100, plus an additional four bonus points, for its nondiscrimination laws, law enforcement, employment and workplace inclusivity, leadership and services to the LGBTQ+ community. Final scores cannot exceed 100.

"[T]he strength of our communities lies in their ability to embrace and support all residents, regardless of who they are or whom they love," stated Kelley Robinson, president of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

The 13th annual MEI scorecard, released in November, analyzes and rates 506 municipalities

across the country, measuring each for the inclusivity of laws, policies and services for their LGBTQ communities. The MEI is the only nationwide assessment of municipal laws, policies and services that are inclusive of LGBTQ+ people.

Cities rated include the 50 state capitals, the 200 largest cities in the U.S., the five largest cities or municipalities in each state, cities home to the state's two largest public universities, 75 cities and municipalities that have high proportions of same-sex couples, and 98 cities selected by HRC and Equality Federation state groups' members and supporters.

Cities are rated across numerous criteria, covering citywide nondiscrimination protections, policies for municipal employees, city services, law enforcement and the city's leadership on LGBTQ+ equality.

Learn more about the MEI at www.hrc.org/MEI. 🌸

Hearing and Survey Offer Opportunities for Community to Be Heard on the Budget

The Mayor and Council held a budget public hearing on Oct. 28 where community members offered ideas for the city's Fiscal Year 2026 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program.

The proposed FY26 budget will be posted to the city's website on Friday, March 7, with budget work sessions and additional public hearings to follow in the spring.

Public participation in the budget process is a high priority for the Mayor and Council and city staff. The community budget priorities survey is available in English, Spanish and Simplified Chinese at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget. Survey responses provide valuable input to the Mayor and Council for their

budget discussions. The Mayor and Council would like to see all parts of the city represented in survey responses.

The Oct. 28 staff report to the Mayor and Council includes an interim report of the survey results as of Oct. 15, as well as a summary of public testimony and exhibits for proposed project submissions from community groups and individuals. Submissions are shared with staff as part of the budget process. Find video of the public hearing and the staff report with the Oct. 28 meeting listing at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

The Mayor and Council are scheduled to adopt the budget on Monday, May 5. FY26 begins Tuesday, July 1. 🌸

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ARE HOLDING HYBRID MEETINGS. The public is welcome to participate in person or virtually.

Meetings Schedule: Monday, Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m. and Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details. A drop-in session from 5:15-6:15 p.m. with Mayor Monique Ashton and Councilmember Marissa Valeri will precede the Dec. 16 meeting.

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.

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

Mayor and Council meetings are broadcast on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, live-streamed at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11 and available a day after each meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand.

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 Mayor and Council, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Volunteer** 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.

See times and dates on the city's calendar: www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.

- **Dec. 11** Planning Commission 7 p.m. (To participate, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.)

Vacancies

- Board of Supervisors of Election (1)
- Community Policing Advisory Board (3)
- Cultural Arts Comm. (1)
- Education Comm. (1 private school parent rep.)
- Environment Comm. (1)
- Ethics Comm. (1)
- Financial Advisory Board (1)
- Human Rights Comm. (4)
- Human Services Advisory Board (2)
- Landlord Tenant Affairs Comm. (2)
- Planning Comm. (2)
- Senior Citizens Comm. (1)
- Transportation and Mobility Comm. (1)
- Youth Comm. (3)

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



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.



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City Hall: **240-314-5000**
Police Non-Emergency: **240-314-8900**
24-Hour Utility Emergency Report Hotline: **240-314-8567**
STAY INFORMED: The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil. Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting.



Climate Solutions Speaker Series Presents Montgomery County Home Electrification Incentives

Join Jeremy Good of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection to learn about the county's home electrification incentives in the latest installment of Rockville's Climate Solutions Speaker Series.

The virtual webinar, from 7-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, will discuss how to connect with the county's home electrification help desk and receive discounts for replacing fossil fuel-fired equipment with efficient electric appliances like heat pumps and electric hot water heaters. Visit bit.ly/MCElectrify2024 to register.

Visit bit.ly/ElectrifyMC to take the pledge to switch from fossil fuels to electric, receive program announcements and get connected to the county's selected electrification installer.



Don't Be Salty, Save Our Streams

The city's first painted plow takes to the roads this winter with a reminder to reduce salt use to help protect the environment. Keep an eye out for the colorful plow and follow these tips to be safe and salt-smart:

Shovel early and often. 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 deicer.

Use less salt. Sprinkle deicer sparingly and evenly and leave space between the grains. More is not better. A 12-ounce mug of salt is enough to treat a 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares. Consider organic, salt-free and pet-safe deicers.

Sweep and reuse. After a weather event, sweep and collect any sand, salt or undissolved deicer. Any excess can be reused for the next storm. Letting it run off into waterways is harmful to drinking water and wildlife.

Are you a business owner or property manager? Find salt best practices and tips for hiring a winter maintenance professional at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/salt.

Learn more about the plow painting project at RockvilleReports.com/paint-the-plow.

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.

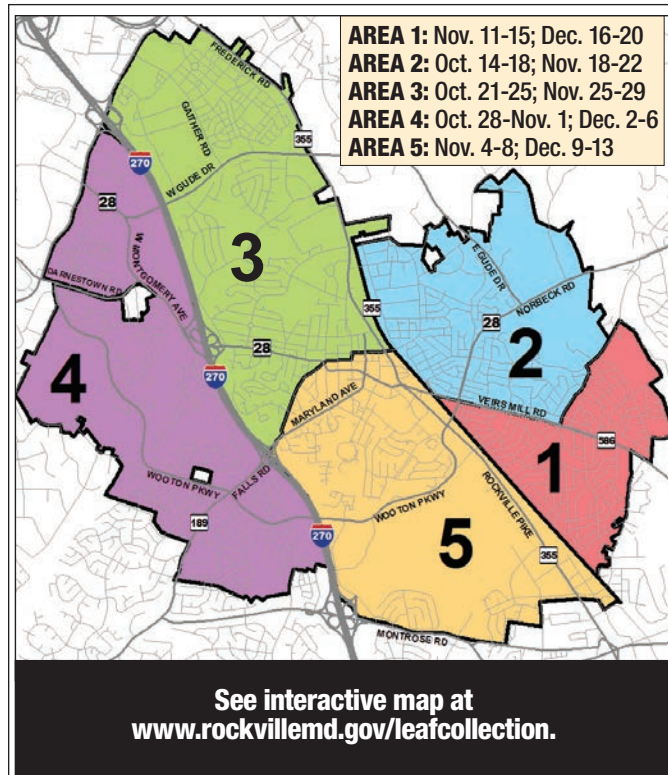
Rockville Charges Ahead with New EV Stations

Electric vehicles drivers have more options for charging up across Rockville with the unveiling of four new Level 2 chargers at Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park in October.

The installation at the park at 1800 Piccard Drive in King Farm adds to the city's network of charging stations. In April, Pepco officials joined city officials to cut a ribbon on two publicly available charging stations on Vinson Street adjacent City Hall. And the city's partnership with Pepco means a new DC fast charger will soon be operational at Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Drive, where two Level 2 chargers and one DC fast charger already exist.



Read more about how Rockville is meeting the growing demand for EV chargers at RockvilleReports.com/rockville-and-pepco-unveil-new-ev-charging-stations. ➕



Leaf Vacuuming Makes Final Sweep This Month

The city is scheduled to conclude its fall leaf collection on Friday, Dec. 20, with crews completing the second of two rounds of vacuuming leaves from neighborhood curbs.

An interactive map at www.rockvillemd.gov/leaf collection 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 leaves can break them into tiny pieces that filter into the grass, providing much-needed nutrients. ➕

Rockville Recycling and Trash Collections Holiday Schedule 2025

DATE	HOLIDAY	COLLECTION CHANGES
Wednesday, Jan. 1	New Year's Day	Monday and Tuesday collections as scheduled; Wednesday and Thursday collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Monday, Jan. 20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	All collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Monday, Feb. 17	Presidents Day	All collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Monday, May 26	Memorial Day	All collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Thursday, June 19	Juneteenth National Independence Day	Thursday collections occur Friday. No other changes this week.
Friday, July 4	Independence Day	No changes. Collections occur as usual this week.
Monday, Sept. 1	Labor Day	All collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Tuesday, Nov. 11	Veterans Day	Monday collections as scheduled; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Thursday, Nov. 27	Thanksgiving Day	Thursday collections occur Friday. No other changes this week.
Thursday, Dec. 25	Christmas Day	Thursday collections occur Friday. No other changes this week.

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 green bins at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, the city's maintenance facility, 14625 Rothgeb Drive, and Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway. The sites are 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, ask a question or raise a 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-trash에서 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.

Hanapin ang impormasyong ito sa www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash.



Find 2025 holiday collection schedule calendars for each collection day at www.rockvillemd.gov/holiday-collection-schedule.

www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash • 240-314-8568



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.

Info to Know When It's Snow Time:
Rockville's Winter Weather Resources
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 X, formerly 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 3 inches, within 48 hours after a snowfall of 3-10 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 program, visit bit.ly/rkvsnowvol.

NUMBERS TO KNOW

Emergency.....	911
Report a Downed Tree to the City.....	240-314-8700
City of Rockville Department of Public Works.....	240-314-8500
Water Main Breaks/Sewer Line Overflows.....	240-314-8567
Rockville City Police Department (non-emergency)...	240-314-8900
Rockville 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 County Hypothermia Alerts (report safety concerns for people or pets).....	301-279-8000

ROCKVILLE SENIOR CENTER

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

SPONSORED BY ROCKVILLE SENIORS, INC.

50+ Handmade Crafters/ Book Sale / Plant Sale / Raffles / Lunch Café / More!

Dec. 7 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Rockville Senior Center 1150 Carnation Dr., Rockville, MD 20850 240-314-8800 • www.rockvillemd.gov/SeniorCenter

GIFT GREENER AND RECYCLE RIGHT ... Find green gift ideas from Montgomery County's Gift Outside the Box Campaign at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/depl/gift-greener.html. Recycling after the holidays? Rockville collects and recycles old electronics — including holiday lights. To make a collection appointment, call 240-314-8568. And don't put old batteries in the trash where they could start a fire. Bring them to the county transfer station at 16105 Frederick Road or find other locations at bit.ly/BatteryDisposal.

Mayor and Council to Hold Work Session on Draft Town Center Plan

The Mayor and Council will hold a work session, Monday, Dec. 9, on next steps for Rockville's Town Center Master Plan. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. The Rockville Planning Commission approved a draft of the Town Center Master Plan in September to forward to the Mayor and Council for their final approval. The overarching goal of the master plan update is to strengthen Town Center by creating a cohesive vision for the planning area, one that meets the city's goals and provides a clear path for implementation. The draft document can be reviewed on the Town Center project page at engagerockville.com/towncenter. A second public hearing on the plan will be held also during the Dec. 9 Mayor and Council meeting. A public hearing on the plan before the Mayor and Council was held Oct. 28. Find a video of the hearing at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter by clicking the TV icon next to the Oct. 28 meeting listing. Final adoption of the plan is expected in January. View the draft, provide feedback and learn about upcoming meetings on the Town Center project page on Engage Rockville. Visit engagerockville.com/towncenter.

Matching Grant Program Seeks Projects to Improve Communities
Deadline for Applications is Jan. 17

The Friday, Jan. 17 deadline is approaching for Rockville's matching grant program, which helps neighbors work together to accomplish common goals that support the health, vitality and inclusivity of the place they call home. 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 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 Abe Bruckman at 240-314-8111 or abruckman@rockvillemd.gov. To see the objectives for matching grants, and for an application form and additional information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/communityempowerment.

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

Take the Needs Assessment Survey to Help Us Help You

Rockville residents are invited to take the city's human services needs assessment survey. Data from the survey will help the city assess available services, identify residents' health and wellness needs, and make informed recommendations on how to best address those needs. The survey takes 10-15 minutes to complete online and will be open until Tuesday, Dec. 10 at bit.ly/2024hnas.

Report Code Enforcement Violations

Help us keep the city's neighborhoods safe and healthy. Trash or debris? Weeds taller than 10 inches? Inoperable, abandoned or junk vehicles? Hazardous trees, hedges or overgrowth? Improperly parked vehicles? Property owners may be issued corrective orders. Failure to comply may result in fines. Report violations anonymously at www.rockvillemd.gov/2547/Community-Enhancement-Code-Enforcement.

City to Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.

Rockville will honor Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and legacy as the city holds its 53rd annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration with a unity gathering and service activities at sites across the city. King 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 service activities in which the community can participate. They are: Assembling "Cups of Cheer" for seniors with hot chocolate, tea packets and treats in a mug, with a handwritten note. Assembling house kits with essential items, such as toiletries, in reusable bags for people in housing transition. Partnering with Project Linus to make no-sew blankets for children who are seriously ill. Creating winter care kits with items like gloves, lip balm, hand sanitizer and a handwritten note for community members in need. Weed Warrior invasive plant pulls at city parks. A trail cleanup. A free unity gathering from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19 at Beall Elementary, 451 Beall Ave., will feature a dialogue with community and faith leaders, as well as food, fellowship and information about how to get involved with the event's nonprofit participants. Register to participate in a service activity and learn more about the unity gathering at www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk.

A New 'Snow'lympic Event?

The Department of Public Works is getting ready for winter. All snowplow operators recently attended a two-day winter maintenance operator certificate program presented by the American Public Works Association and a two-phase training session comprising a presentation and a hands-on behind-the-wheel driving course. The training focused on pre-trip snowplow truck inspections, salt distribution control systems and safety initiatives. Crews also drove snowplow trucks through an obstacle course at the RedGate Park parking lot set up by DPW's street crew supervisors, prompting City Manager Jeff Mihelich to quip: "This stuff is not as easy as it looks! Maybe the next Winter Olympic sport?" Upcoming training includes a snowplow truck simulator for drivers with three years or less experience and a "salt summit," hosted by the city's Environmental Management Division staff, focused on the impacts of salt on waterways — especially the Chesapeake Bay.



Rockville Shows Reverence for Veterans' Service

Community members joined veterans and members of the Mayor and Council for the city's annual Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11 at Veterans Park. The ceremony featured a wreath laying, a presentation of colors and rifle salute by American Legion Post 86, and a keynote address by retired Air Force Master Sgt. Dominic Russoli, pictured, third from left with (L to R) councilmembers Barry Jackson, Izola (Zola) Shaw, Mayor Monique Ashton, and councilmembers Adam Van Grack and Marissa Valeri. Rockville 11 takes you to this year's ceremony at youtube.com/cityofrockville. Search "Veterans Day."

Glenview-Peerless Speaker Series Presents 'Indigenous D.C.'

A virtual presentation exploring indigenous people in the nation's capital is December's offering from the Glenview Mansion and Peerless Rockville Speaker Series.

"Indigenous D.C." will be held via Zoom at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5. Elizabeth Rule, an assistant professor of critical race, gender and culture studies at American University, will present her Guide to Indigenous DC, a digital map and mobile app featuring sites of importance to Native Americans across the nation's capital. She will also present her affiliated full-length book, "Indigenous DC: Native Peoples and the Nation's Capital." The map, app and book showcase empowering stories of how Washington, D.C., is a place of tribal history, gathering and advocacy with a long, rich history.

This rescheduled presentation was originally scheduled for November. After registering you will be sent a link to the program. Registration is free at peerlessrockville.org/events/indigenous-dc.

Lighting of the Christmas Tree to be Held Dec. 6

The annual tree lighting ceremony will be held 6-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6 in Town Square, 200 E. Middle Lane.

Visit www.rockvilletownsquare.com for more information about events at Rockville Town Square.

SAVE THE DATE!

Winter registration is just around the corner!

Senior center member registration opens Tuesday, Dec. 3.

General registration opens Thursday, Dec. 5 at 8:30 a.m.

Find the city's recreation guides at www.rockvillemd.gov/guide or in print at City Hall, community centers and libraries.

Memory and Breathing Support, and What to Do Post-Hospital, in December at the Senior Center

Stay healthy, informed and entertained with seminars and events 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.

A Place to Heal — No Longer in the Hospital

Learn how to navigate your insurance benefits, understand the breadth of post-acute care options available and discover how to optimize your recovery outcomes.

Session 3: Case Study Analysis — Evaluating the Crisis. Presented by Kerri Donnelly, regional director, business development, Montcare.

Register with course #33583. 1-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4. Free.

Better Breather's Club
Featuring educational tips on respiratory and health issues. Meets monthly.

Register with course #33025. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19. Free.

Aphasia Support Group

This group aims to help stroke survivors, particularly those with aphasia, overcome social isolation through guided communication activities like board games, arts and crafts, and music-making, enhancing their conversational abilities in a supportive environment.

Register with course #33009. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11. Free.

Find the Rockville Senior Center at 1150 Carnation Drive and online at www.rockvillemd.gov/seniorcenter. ✚

Connect with us on Social Media.





"ROCKVILLE ROLL CALL" takes a closer look at the Rockville staff members who serve our city. Later this month, Rockville 11 talks with Tara Eggleston Stewart, the new director of the Department of Recreation and Parks.

The Department of Recreation and Parks cares for and maintains 67 parks, three community centers and multiple facilities, including Glenview Mansion and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Social Hall. The department also provides diverse, interesting and high-quality recreational and leisure opportunities throughout the city.

The interview will debut in January. 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

A Christmas Classic, Babes, Moods and Art: This Holiday Season at the Civic Center

Find entertainment during the holiday season at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive:

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and its social hall will close for renovations to improve accessibility and sound on Tuesday, Dec. 17, reopening Sept. 1, 2025.

Rockville Civic Ballet Presents "The Nutcracker"

Treat yourself to a holiday classic and join Clara on her magical journey, directed by Eleanor Simpson and Erin Kwong.

7:30 p.m. Fridays, Dec. 6 and 13; 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 7 and 14; 2 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 8 and 15.

Tickets cost \$17; \$13 for ages 12 and younger; \$13 for ages 60 and older. Assigned seat tickets are available for purchase online, by phone or in person. Visit fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/Nutcracker2024 for information and tickets.

Rockville Art League Juried Members' Winter Show

The Rockville Art League was founded in 1957 by a collective of artists in Rockville and the surrounding area. In 1958, RAL was incorporated as a nonprofit to promote the development of the fine arts within its membership and community.

Meet the artists behind an exhibition of varied media from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8 at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery. The show will run Dec. 8-Jan. 17.

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

city holidays.

Rockville Chorus Presents "Sounds of the Season"

Directed by Linda Garrettson with accompanist Arielle Bayer.

7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15 at Col. Zadok Magruder High School, 5939 Muncaster Mill Road, Derwood. No tickets required; \$5 suggested donation. Visit rockvillechorus.org for more information.

Rockville Concert Band Presents "Sounds of the Season: Timeless Holiday Classics"

With guest conductor Christine Lopez Higley.

3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22 at the Theater Arts Building, Montgomery College, Rockville Campus. No tickets required; \$5 suggested donation. Visit rockvilleconcertband.org for more information.

Victorian Lyric Opera Company presents "A Holiday Concert Featuring the Many Moods of Christmas"

8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15.

A holiday concert featuring "The Many Moods of Christmas" — four suites of Christmas carols arranged by Robert Shaw and Robert Russell Bennett for chorus and orchestra. Also included in the program will be "March of the Toys" from Victor Herbert's "Babes in Toyland."

Tickets cost \$20.

This concert series will be performed at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville, 100 Welsh Park Drive. Tickets are being sold through the Fitzgerald Theatre box office, by calling 240-314-8690 or visiting fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/VLOC_Holiday. ✚



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MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ...

Now on Rockville 11's YouTube channel, (youtube.com/cityofrockville): watch how the city does business with Rockville Means Business 2024; we unveil a more colorful Beall Avenue with the Beall Avenue Asphalt Art Project; and tour the hundreds of cars on show at the 2024 Rockville Antique and Classic Car Show.

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.
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 Program/Offering
F Facebook Live Event



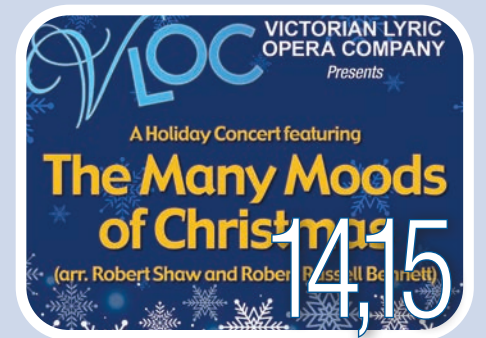
4,14



6



8



14,15

2,16 MEMORY CAFE Alzheimer's Association Memory Cafes offer a relaxed way for people with early-stage memory loss to connect through social events. Meets first and third Mondays. Bring a bag lunch. Contact Laura Byer at 240-844-3608 or lbbyer@alz.org. Register with course #33010. Free. Noon-1:30 p.m. **SR**

3 CREATING HOLIDAY LABELS Get creative and design festive labels for holiday cards and gifts. Register with course #33051. \$9 M/\$15 M. 1-3 p.m. **SR**

4,14 LITTLE EXPLORERS Is your little one curious about nature? Join a naturalist for crafts, hands-on sensory activities, stories and hikes. Ages 2-5. Register with course #33141 (Dec. 4) or #33142 (Dec. 14). \$10 R/\$12 NR. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

4 H A PLACE TO HEAL: NO LONGER IN THE HOSPITAL See article on page 6. Free. 1-2:30 p.m.

4 ASK AN EV OWNER Shopping for an EV? Have questions about your new EV? Or are you just curious about EVs? If you answer "yes," then join EVADC for its online "Ask An EV Owner" event. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Visit evadc.wildapricot.org/ask.

5 V GLENVIEW-PEERLESS SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS "INDIGENOUS D.C." See article on page 6. 7 p.m.

5 CLIMATE SOLUTIONS SPEAKER SERIES: MONTGOMERY COUNTY HOME ELECTRIFICATION INCENTIVES Learn about incentives for switching from fossil fuels to electric appliances. Register and find details at bit.ly/ElectrifyMC. See article on page 4. 7-8 p.m.

6 TOWN SQUARE TREE LIGHTING See article on page 6. Free. 6-9 p.m. Rockville Town Square.

6,7,13,14,15 ROCKVILLE CIVIC BALLET PRESENTS "THE NUTCRACKER" See article on page 6. **FSF**

7 HOLIDAY BAZAAR See ad on page 5. Find unique, handmade gifts from local artisans and enjoy holiday treats at this festive event. Free. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. **SR**

8 MEET THE ARTISTS: ROCKVILLE ART LEAGUE WINTER SHOW See article on page 6. 1:30-3:30 p.m. **GM**

8 NATURAL HOLIDAY CRAFTS Create holiday crafts and ornaments with natural materials. Ages 6-12. Adult registration required for children younger than 8. Register by Dec. 1 with course #33152. \$12 R/\$14 NR. 1:30-3 p.m. **CC**

10 SCIENCE TUESDAYS Monthly presentations and conversations with a scientist on various topics. No scientific background required. Co-sponsored by Rockville Science Center. Register with course #32995. Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

11 APHASIA SUPPORT GROUP Guided activities for stroke survivors, especially those with aphasia. Meets monthly. Register with course #33009. Free. 1:30-2:30 p.m.

14,15 VICTORIAN LYRIC OPERA COMPANY PRESENTS "A HOLIDAY CONCERT" See article on page 6. **FSF**

15 ROCKVILLE CHORUS PRESENTS "SOUNDS OF THE SEASON" See article on page 6. Col. Zadok Magruder High School, 5939 Muncaster Mill Road, Derwood.

18 SENIOR SCIENTISTS PROGRAM Engage in research activities related to speech, language, and hearing, led by University of Maryland faculty. Register with course #33008. Free. 1:30-3 p.m. **SR**

19 BETTER BREATHERS CLUB Monthly club with educational presentations on lung health and breathing techniques. Meets third Thursday. Register with course #33025. Free. 1:30-2:30 p.m. **SR**

22 ROCKVILLE CONCERT BAND PRESENTS "SOUNDS OF THE SEASON: TIMELESS HOLIDAY CLASSICS" See article on page 6. 3 p.m. Theater Arts Building, Montgomery College, Rockville Campus.

25 CHRISTMAS City government will be closed. See article on page 1.

CITY OF ROCKVILLE HOLIDAY RECYCLE GUIDE

Recycle

Please remove bows, ribbons and glitter from items before recycling.

- Cardboard Boxes (Flattened)
- Plain Wrapping Paper, Cardboard Wrapping Paper Tubes (No Foil or Glitter)
- Plain Cards and Envelopes (No Foil or Glitter)
- Gift Bags and Flattened Boxes (No Foil or Glitter)
- Aluminum Foil Pans

Trash

Consider saving these items to reuse or donate.

- Wrapping Paper with Dyes, Foil, or Glitter
- Paper and Plastic Cups, Plates & Cutlery
- Gift Bags with Dyes, Foil, or Glitter; Tissue Paper
- Ribbons, Bows & Tinsel
- Styrofoam or Plastic Packaging

Fresh Cut Trees

Remove ornaments, wires, stands and decorations before placing at the curb for pickup on regular recycling and trash collection days. Trees should not be bagged. There is no deadline for curbside tree collection.

Artificial Trees

Artificial trees should be placed in the gray trash cart for regular weekly collection. Trees that are too large to fit in the cart can be collected as bulk collection, or taken to the transfer station.

Transfer Station

Bring batteries, string lights, light bulbs, electronics and artificial trees to the Shady Grove Transfer Drop Off Station located at: 16101 Frederick Road, Derwood, Maryland.

R Learn more at rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash
Questions? Email us at recyclingrefuse@rockvillemd.gov

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

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

2024 Yearly Roundup

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addressing common violations and ensuring neighborhood aesthetics, including how to report a code violation. The webpage offers guidelines for preventing overcrowded dwellings and maintaining safe, visually appealing communities. For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/codeenforcement.

The 35th Annual Rockville Public Safety Awards, held at Lakewood Country Club, honored several RCPD officers and mental health specialist Beth Loftus.

A new online resource from the city's Environmental Management Division features incentive programs to help community members play their part in Rockville reaching its Climate Action Plan goals. The resource, at www.rockvillemd.gov/climate/, highlights the variety of energy, solar, electric vehicle and flood protection incentive programs available from government jurisdictions, local to federal.

Rockville community members, the Mayor and Council, and city staff joined Montgomery County for a Juneteenth celebration on June 15 at BlackRock Center for the Arts in Germantown.

Rockville celebrated the intersection of Juneteenth and Pride with a conversation at Rockville Memorial Library that explored the intersection of the LGBTQIA+ and Black communities. The discussion featured author Andre Bradley and representatives of local nonprofit SMYAL and the city's Human Rights Commission.

JULY

Campers in Croydon Creek Nature Center's Conservation Service Learning program designed and painted an environmentally friendly message on a snowplow blade used by Department of Public Works trucks. The "Don't Be Salty, Save Our

Streams" message seeks to spread the word about protecting our wildlife and environment by using less salt to treat icy driveways and sidewalks.

AUGUST

After a season of summer fun, a complete renovation and reconfiguration of the outdoor recreation pool areas began at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, including improvements to accessibility, modernized amenities and infrastructure that will provide new recreational features and pools for swimmers of all ages and abilities.

In a continuing effort to reduce the

continued on pg. 8...



Left to right:
Maj. Jason West
and Maj. Troy
Plummer.

West and Plummer to Lead Rockville Police Department

Acting Maj. Jason West has been appointed acting chief and Maj. Troy Plummer acting deputy chief of the Rockville City Police Department, following the resignation of Chief Victor V. Brito, City Manager Jeff Mihelich has announced.

The appointments took effect Friday, Nov. 22, the day Brito stepped down following six years of service to the community.

West is a 25-year law enforcement veteran. He began his career with the Frederick County Sheriff's Office where he served until his retirement at the rank of lieutenant in 2017. He joined the RCPD in June 2017.

Plummer has more than 30 years of law enforcement experience, including 28 years with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, where he retired at the rank of lieutenant in February 2022. He joined the RCPD in March 2022.

As the city is committed to ensuring the public's safety, recruitment for a new police chief will begin in the near future.

F. Scott Theater to Close for Upgrades to Accessibility, Sound

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and its social hall will close for nine months in late December for renovations that will improve accessibility and sound. The venue will close Tuesday, Dec. 17 and reopen Sept. 1, 2025.

The primary focus of the renovations is to improve safety and compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

Changes will be made to the lobby, theater house and dressing rooms. The box office and restrooms will be expanded and wheelchair accessible.

New speakers will be installed in the theater house, upgrading the sound experience and making assisted listening devices more effective. The ADA-seating section will be expanded and modified for easier and safer access.

The box office, which will move to the Rockville Civic Center Cottage during renovations, will sell tickets for some resident company performances that will be held at alternate venues. Hours will be 2-6 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and two Saturdays per month, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

In-person box office hours will be subject to change. Tickets are always available to purchase at fscottfitzgerald.showare.com. Direct questions about the closure to boxoffice@rockvillemd.gov.



Neighborhood Celebrated with New Public Artwork

Thanks to D.C.-based artist Rose Jaffe, a vibrant mural now adorns the playground-facing wall of the Lincoln Park Community Center at 357 Frederick Ave.

The mural features residents of all ages dancing, playing and moving together, alongside Maryland and Lincoln Park history, and welcoming words in multiple languages.

Funded by a \$30,000 Maryland State Arts Council grant, VisArts led the project with the City of Rockville and Lincoln Park residents. Children from the community joined Jaffe to complete the artwork.

Watch a Rockville II video about the mural this January at www.youtube.com/cityofrockville.

2024 Yearly Roundup

continued from pg. 7...

number of speeding vehicles in Rockville neighborhoods, the RCPD deployed a speed-monitoring system in late August near the intersection of southbound Wootton Parkway and Wootton Oats Court.

The city's safety and risk, public works, and recreation and parks teams took part in a ceremony to recognize Safe + Sound Week, a nationwide event held each August that recognizes the successes of workplace health and safety programs and offers information and ideas on how to keep America's workers safe. During the ceremony, the city recognized Rockville employees for their contributions to promoting safety in city operations. Awardees were Alexander Morales, a maintenance worker with the Department of Recreation and Parks; Jason Burdette, a crew supervisor; and William Moore, Jr., a maintenance worker with the Department of Public Works.

Rockville celebrated National Night Out. RCPD officers, city elected officials and city staff joined neighbors at gatherings across the city. In its 41st year, National Night Out is a nationwide effort to raise awareness about crime and drug prevention, generate support for anti-crime programs, and strengthen community spirit and community policing partnerships.

SEPTEMBER

In their ongoing effort 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. Rockville Goes Purple is a campaign, alongside the city's county and state partners, that seeks to shine a spotlight on the national impact of opioid addiction and create awareness about the epidemic's impact on our community.

Following a pandemic-driven hiatus, Rockville's bi-

ennial survey returned. The community survey — which provides an opportunity for residents to rate their satisfaction with the quality of life in the city, the community's amenities and local government services — last took place in 2018. Previous survey solicitations were conducted every two years.

The 28th annual F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival honored author and two-time National Book Award winner Jesmyn Ward with the F. Scott Fitzgerald Award for Outstanding Achievement in American Literature.

As part of the city's Vision Zero Action plan to eliminate traffic-related deaths and serious injuries, the city launched a new tool for helping pedestrians cross city streets safely, with new guidelines for evaluating requests for crosswalk installation and related pedestrian safety improvements. The new Marked Crossing Guidelines help city staff determine when a marked crosswalk can be considered at an intersection or midblock. By Maryland law, pedestrians may cross the street midblock only when using a marked crosswalk. Intersections are considered legal crosswalks whether marked or unmarked. The city's new guidelines better account for the area immediately surrounding a crosswalk and update the thresholds for considering whether a marked crosswalk should be installed.

The city's Department of Finance earned the Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for Rockville's FY 2025 Adopted Budget. This was the 34th time the city has received the award. It included special recognition in three categories: Budget Process, Capital Program and Financial Policies.

The Rockville Planning Commission approved a draft of the Town Center Master Plan to forward to the Mayor and Council for their final approval. This advancement marked a major

milestone in the process and moved the plan along to its final phase.

A new sign of peace and hope was unveiled in Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park's Peace Garden with the Mayor and Council, and guests, cutting the ribbon on a labyrinth that encourages park visitors to walk its path, meditate and reflect.

OCTOBER

Rockville's Mayor and Council were out and about on a walking tour of the Lincoln Park neighborhood. The tour focused on observing the look and feel of homes in this historic neighborhood in relation to design guidelines proposed for the community.

The Rockville Antique and Classic Car Show, a city tradition for more than six decades, once again rolled into Rockville Civic Center Park.

Two public workshops were held so community members could learn more about the ongoing update to the city's zoning ordinance. The comprehensive rewrite of the city's zoning ordinance — Chapter 25 of the city code — aims to enhance the code's usability and accessibility, as well as modernize land-use laws to meet the changing living, working and recreation trends of Rockville's

residents in the 21st century. Visit engagerockville.com/zoning rewrite for more information about the project.

Two rating agencies reaffirmed the city's triple-A bond rating and expressed confidence in Rockville's financial outlook. Triple-A is the highest possible rating and saves Rockville taxpayers money by allowing the city to borrow at the lowest possible interest rates. In awarding the rating, the agencies showed confidence in Rockville's ability to meet its financial obligations, cited the city's conservative fiscal management, strong policies and practices, ample reserve levels, and stable tax base.

NOVEMBER

Rockville's Procurement Division hosted "Rockville Means Business," an informational session to offer vendors the opportunity to learn more about doing business with city government.

City Manager Jeff Mihelich accepted the resignation of Rockville City Police Chief Victor V. Brito. Brito submitted his resignation after six years of committed service to the Rockville community. His last day was Friday, Nov. 22.

DECEMBER

See December's highlights in this edition. ✦



MAKING THE NEW POOL'S FUTURE MORE ... CONCRETE ... Work is continuing on a comprehensive renovation and reconfiguration of the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center's outdoor recreation pool. Improvements are being made to accessibility, amenities will be modernized, and infrastructure will provide new recreational features and pools for swimmers of all ages and abilities.

Last month, concrete was poured for the wellness pool walls and a section of the activity pool's floor, work was performed on the piping layout, and repairs were made to the mechanical room.

Construction is expected to last through spring 2025. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/rsfrenovations for information and periodic updates.



Get Into It

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BACK IN THE DAY ... The December 1974 "City of Rockville Newsletter" heralded completion of a "New Baltimore Road Pedestrian Way." This "crushed stone pathway paralleling the South side of Baltimore Road between Gladstone Drive and Rockville High School" offered safer pedestrian access to keep students from walking in the roadway during inclement weather. Fast-forward nearly a half-century and the July/August 2023 "Rockville Reports" detailed completion of a long-planned project with pedestrian safety improvements that include an 8-foot-wide shared-use path along Baltimore Road from the Carl Henn Millennium Trail at First Street to the Rock Creek Trail near the school.