



RockvilleReports

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COVID-19: City Hall Opening Delayed

Rockville has delayed re-opening City Hall following a surge in COVID-19 cases driven by the new, more infectious omicron variant, and a concurrent rise in transmission and hospitalizations.

"These are all markers that particularly the county and the state are tracking, and we are paying attention to with respect to public safety," City Manager Rob DiSpirito told the Mayor and Council at their Jan. 10 meeting. "Those numbers, unfortunately, ... have been growing rapidly. So, we continue to monitor that. We also continue to try to provide services to the maximum extent possible."

City Hall-based services are being provided virtually to the public. COVID-19, including the highly contagious delta variant, poses a serious health risk, especially to individuals who are not fully vaccinated, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Maryland Department of Health, and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent transmission and severe COVID-19 cases resulting in hospitalization and death.

Rockville is the only Maryland jurisdiction that has mandated vaccinations and booster shots for eligible employees.

City staff and the Mayor and Council are continuing to review city protocols as health

guidance and conditions evolve daily. Employees who can do so are continuing to telework. Face-coverings are mandatory for all employees and visitors, aged 2 and older, to Rockville facilities.

At their Jan. 10 meeting, the Mayor and Council discussed city operations in response to the surge and a proposed two-phased approach to reopening city operations when the worst of the pandemic has passed.

The first phase, which would be implemented once threat from the virus has diminished, would retain virtual meetings for city business and elected and appointed bodies, but allow for in-person customer service. Department of Recreation and Parks facilities that serve the public are currently in the first phase.

In the second phase, employees would return to the workplace and Mayor and Council hybrid meetings would begin.

City Hall has been closed since March 14, 2020, in an effort to protect the health of Rockville employees and the public, and prevent the spread of COVID-19. City government remains open with employees reporting on-site in the field or virtually.

The city's virtual services can be accessed through www.rockvillemd.gov. Information about testing and vaccinations can be found on Montgomery County's COVID-19 information portal at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19. +

Mayor and Council Adopt Rockville's First Climate Action Plan

Rockville joined the ranks of hundreds of U.S. cities on Jan. 10 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.

The plan calls for electric vehicle readiness, increased transit, bicycle and pedestrian travel, improved energy efficiency for buildings, increasing solar installations and renewable energy, reducing waste, and fostering sustainable land use. It also proposes actions to protect people, infrastructure and the environment from heat waves, flooding risk and severe storms, as Rockville experienced when remnants of Hurricane Ida swept through the region in September.

"I am so pleased that, unanimously, we have approved a plan that will move Rockville forward in our efforts to mitigate negative impacts on our environment," Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton said. "By planning today, we hope to ensure a

better tomorrow for everyone."

The Mayor and Council also adopted a resolution to transition the city's fleet to clean, efficient fuel sources. This resolution sets a phased plan to electrify the city's light-duty fleet and deploy electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

While city leadership is critical, reaching the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% by 2030 will be a communitywide endeavor. Every resident, visitor and business can participate.

"We look forward to continue working closely with our community partners to help make this plan a success," said Amanda Campbell, the city's sustainability coordinator.

Over the past year, the city received more than 600 community comments through surveys, open houses and other input that helped guide and strengthen the plan.

Find video of the Mayor and Council vote with the Jan. 10 agenda at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

For more information about the plan, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/climate. +

Presidents Day Brings Closures in Rockville

City government and most city facilities will be closed on Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 21.

City Hall's reopening to the public has been delayed following a surge in COVID-19 cases driven by the new, more infectious omicron variant.

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will be open for regular hours on Feb. 21. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter for details.

All other city facilities will be closed, including the Rockville Senior Center; Croydon Creek Nature Center; Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm and Twinbrook community centers; Glenview Mansion; the Rockville Civic Center business office; and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre box office. Theater tickets are always available at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre.

Recycling and trash will be collected as usual on Monday, Feb. 21 and throughout the week. For more information on recycling and trash collection, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash or call 240-314-8568.

Parking will be free at city-owned meters on Feb. 21.

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

During the pandemic, please check our online resources to see if any information contained in this edition of "Rockville Reports" has changed.

Rockville Recognizes Those Carrying on King's Legacy

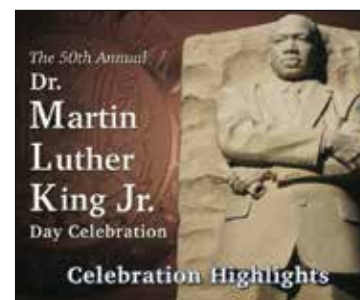
The city's 50th annual Martin Luther King Day celebration, held virtually Jan. 17, included presentations of two awards to community members carrying on King's legacy.

Find highlights of the celebration this month on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, and on the city's YouTube channel.

F. Michael Taff Award

Awarded to an individual, organization or business that has helped to improve the lives of people with disabilities in the City of Rockville, such as through efforts to improve accessibility or raise public awareness.

Sunflower Bakery was the recipient of the F. Michael Taff Award. Through its bakeshop



Watch highlights of the city's 50th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration throughout February on Rockville 11 (county cable channel 11) and the city's YouTube channel.

near the Twinbrook Metro station, Sunflower Bakery provides young adults with learning differences the opportunity to gain on-the-job experience in

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Beating
COVID-19
takes a
community.



Vencer
al COVID-19
requiere de la
comunidad.



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ECR WSS
LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Prescription Drug Drop Box Debuts at Rockville City Police Station

Box is Available 24/7, Permanently Located in the Station's Front Lobby

Residents can now 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.

Resembling a mailbox, the drop box accepts prescription medication and over-the-counter medication in the form of pills, tablets, capsules, patches and pet medication.

Medication should be in their original containers or in a sealed plastic bag, with name labels and other identifying information removed or blacked out if possible. Liquids or syringes are not accepted. This free, anonymous service is available to the public 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The permanent drug drop box is an extension of the National Drug Take Back Days held in October and April each year. In recent years, the Rockville City Police Department has collected unwanted medication through a drive-up and drop-off collection in the police station's parking lot, with all medication collected destroyed by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

The permanently secured box is under 24/7 video surveillance. All medications will be destroyed after collection.

RCPD Prescription Drug Drop Box

Rockville City Police Station Lobby,
2 W. Montgomery Ave.

ACCEPTED:

- Prescription medication.
- Prescription patches.
- Over-the-counter medication.
- Vitamins.
- Pet medication.

NOT ACCEPTED:

- Liquids or lotions.
 - Hydrogen peroxide.
 - Inhalers.
 - Aerosol cans.
 - Needles/sharps/EpiPens.
 - Thermometers.
 - Medication from businesses or clinics.
- (Box is for medication from residents only.)

Mayor and Council to Hear Budget Presentation

FY 2023 Budget Hearings and Work Sessions Set, Survey Available

City Manager Rob DiSpirito is scheduled to present his proposed Fiscal Year 2023 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program on Monday, Feb. 28, followed by Mayor and Council public hearings and work sessions in March and April.

For information about how to testify at the hearings, find agendas, posted the week before each meeting, at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Public participation in the budget process is a high priority for the Mayor and Council and city staff. A budget survey, in English and Spanish, at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget allows community members to identify their top budget priorities, initiatives for reducing the negative impacts of COVID-19 and options for maintaining a balanced budget. The public response to

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL'S UPCOMING BUDGET PROCESS FOR FY 2023 INCLUDES:

- **Monday, Feb. 28:** A presentation of the city manager's proposed FY 2023 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program.
- **Monday, March 7:** Public hearing.
- **Monday, March 21:** FY23 budget public hearing, and work sessions on the budget and the use of ARPA funds.
- **Monday, April 4:** Public hearing.
- **Friday, April 15:** Close of budget public record.
- **Monday, April 18:** Work session.
- **Monday, April 25:** Final direction on FY23 budget.
- **Monday, May 9:** Adoption of the FY23 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program.

the survey will provide valuable input to the Mayor and Council for their FY23 budget discussions.

On Jan. 10, the Mayor and Council directed staff to apply \$1.1 million of the city's \$9.6 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act funding to sewer and electric infrastructure for the King Farm Farmstead, \$533,345 for the recycling transfer station at the city's Gude Drive

Maintenance Facility, and \$300,000 for cybersecurity for the city's water treatment plant. They are scheduled to hold a work session Monday, March 21 about how to apply the remaining \$4.1 million in ARPA funding.

ARPA's goal is to aid state and local governments in recovering from the budgetary, economic, and financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In October, the Mayor and Council directed staff to apply nearly \$3.9 million in ARPA funding toward water infrastructure improvements and assisting city water and sewer customers in paying past-due utility bills incurred during the pandemic. New water and sewer rates and a new rate structure adopted by the Mayor and Council in November, took effect on Jan. 1.

The \$141.2 million budget for Fiscal Year 2022, which ends June 30, 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.

For more information, including details of the new water and sewer rates, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget or call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. ✚

Traffic and Transportation Commission Looks to Future in Annual Report

The city's Traffic and Transportation Commission is focused on how the city can best address emerging transportation technologies, such as self-driving cars and is brainstorming ways to become more data-driven, the commission said in its annual report to the Mayor and Council on Jan. 10.

The nine-member commission advises the Mayor and Council on transportation planning and traffic matters. Its goals for this year also include taking a closer look at its authorizing resolution, which defines the scope of the commission's work, with a goal of forwarding it to the Mayor and Council for review in the spring.

Other goals include continuing to meet quarterly with the Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee and the Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee for discussions and cooperation.

Among the commission's accomplishments during Fiscal Year 2021-2022, which spans July 1, 2020-present day, the report listed:



- **Providing feedback to the county on its Corridor Forward Interstate 270 transit plan.** Learn more about the plan at montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation/transit-planning/corridor-forward-the-i-270-transit-plan.
- **Providing feedback to city on the Town Center Road Diet Study.** The study includes an upcoming project to add pedestrian and bicycle facilities on North Washington Street and East Middle Lane. Find the concept plan and learn more about the study under "Town Center Road Diets" at www.rockville

md.gov/visionzero.

- **Supporting the city's Climate Action Plan.** Learn more about the plan in the article on page 1 and at www.rockvillemd.gov/climate.
- **Providing feedback on city's Vision Zero progress.** Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/visionzero.
- **Discussing stop sign and traffic violations in King Farm** and requesting increased enforcement by city police.
- **Submitting a letter in opposition to the state's I-495 and I-270 Managed Lanes Project.** For more information about city efforts to oppose the proj-

ect, visit RockvilleReports.com and search "I-270."

- **Inviting RPAC and RBAC to introduce social justice/equity concerns and goals related to traffic and transportation** and supporting those goals.
- **Discussing speeding concerns in the Hungerford neighborhood**, leading to neighborhood outreach and planned traffic-calming measures.
- **Submitting testimony on Rockville's 2040 Comprehensive Plan.** Learn more about the plan at RockvilleReports.com/mayor-and-council-unanimously-adopt-rockville-2040-comprehensive-plan.
- **Submitting a letter supporting a feasibility study, during this fiscal year, for a pedestrian and bicycle crossing of the CSX and Metrorail tracks** to better connect Twinbrook to the city's west side.

Find video of the report presentation with the Jan. 10 Mayor and Council agenda at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Learn more about the commission and its work at rockvillemd.gov/123/Traffic-and-Transportation-Commission. ✚

City of Rockville
Get into it.

ROCKVILLE TOWN SQUARE PARKING UPDATE

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

Practice good petiquette in our parks!

Keep your pet on a leash at all times. **If your pet makes a mess, clean it up!**

City of Rockville
Get into it.



WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING THIS MONTH? ... American Heart Month, Black History Month, National Bird-Feeding Month and National Children's Dental Health Month are just some of the celebrations marked in February, which, remember, hath 28 days, according to the old reminder. The Chinese New Year falls on Tuesday, Feb. 1 and Valentine's Day is Monday, Feb. 14 (don't forget!).

Mayor & Council

mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov



Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton
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bnewton@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Monique Ashton
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mashton@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg
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VIRTUAL MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD ONLINE.

Meetings are closed to in-person attendance and are livestreamed at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11.

Meetings Schedule: Monday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m., with a work session at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 28. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details.

The Feb. 7 meeting will be preceded by a drop-in session by telephone with Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and Councilmember Monique Ashton 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/City-Clerk-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. To practice responsible social distancing, Mayor and Council meetings will be conducted by teleconference and 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.

Rockville Aims to Increase, Preserve Affordable Housing

The Mayor and Council amended the city's Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit program in December in an effort 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.

In 2019, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments passed a resolution to increase the region's supply of affordable housing by 75,000 units by 2030. COG's resolution was endorsed by member jurisdictions and municipalities, including Rockville. Under the resolution, Rockville's share is 1,000 of the 75,000 units.

Amendments to the MPDU program include changing the affordability control period and affordability set-aside requirements. Specifically, the new amendment increases, from 30 to 99 years, the control period for certain rental MPDUs, to

preserve Rockville's long-term affordable housing supply. The control period restricts the rent amount to certain affordability levels, based on U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development income limits.

Developers will further be required to provide 15% of residential developments of 50 or more units at affordable rental rates based on income limits set by HUD.

The amendment eliminates a two-tiered system that required a 12.5% or 15% set-aside, depending on the zoning district of the proposed development project.

The new MPDU requirements will apply to new developments that did not secure a building permit as of Dec. 20, 2021.

Find out more about Rockville's MPDU program at www.rockvillemd.gov/mpdu. See the Mayor and Council's MPDU discussion at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter by clicking on the TV icon next to the Dec. 6 meeting. ✚

Students: What Would You Do If You Were Mayor?

Rockville fourth graders once again have a chance to meet Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and imagine what they would do if they were mayor by taking part in the Maryland Municipal League's statewide "If I Were Mayor" essay contest.

This year's theme is "Celebrating the Soul of Maryland." Students are asked to create a slogan that says what their hometown is all about. Students will write an essay of no more than 275 words that describes the facts, traits or cultural aspects of their hometown that they would promote, as well as what they'd do to attract visitors.

One winning essay will be selected from each of MML's 11 districts. Winners will receive a cash prize and a citation from the governor, and will be honored, along with their parents and teacher, during an awards ceremony in May.

The entry deadline is midnight Thursday, March 31. For more information, including contest rules and forms for submitting entries online, visit www.mdmmunicipal.org.



Rockville's 2019 "If I Were Mayor" contest winner, Jaden Walcoff, with Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton.

org/2022essay.

The Mayor and Council consider the contest to be a wonderful exercise in government studies and encourage fourth graders attending schools in Rockville to participate.

Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton welcomes the opportunity to speak with students virtually about the essay contest, municipal government and what it's like to be Rockville's mayor. Teachers or school administrators may email clerk@rockvillemd.gov to arrange a virtual visit by the mayor, though a mayoral visit is not required for students to participate in the contest. ✚

Rockville's Generosity on Display During 2021 Holiday Drive

A total 260 individuals and organizations around Rockville delivered a brighter Thanksgiving and Christmas for those in need through the 2021 Holiday Drive.

The Mayor and Council will recognize donors to the 2021 Holiday Drive at their Monday, Feb. 28 meeting.

Sixteen organizations and individuals will be recognized with plaques as distinguished donors.

They are: Carl Peterson; Carol A. Hannaford; Christ Church Episcopal Church, Prince George's Parish; Faith United Methodist Church; Julius West Middle School Student Government Association; Kaye A. Craft; Keary Cannon; Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and Frederick W. Newton; Nancy Taylor; Robert Frost Middle School; Sandra Yerkes; St. Mary's Catholic Church; The David and Mikel Blair Family Foundation; White Flint Children's House; and Woodmont Country Club.

Additionally, 55 donors will receive certificates for significant contributions.

This year, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the city requested cash donations only, instead of the usual collection of food and toys, and purchased gift cards for recipients in need.

The 2021 Holiday Drive raised a total of \$77,352 (which included gift cards worth \$1,680), as well as non-monetary donations worth \$16,880 (which included books and family sponsorships).

A total of 618 families — 1,950 people in total — and 184 seniors received \$50 grocery gift cards in November to purchase food for Thanksgiving.

In December, families with children were given Target gift cards and two books for each child in the household; 1,086 children were helped.

The Community Services Division Family Sponsorship program served 42 high-need families, including 208 individuals, by pairing households with sponsors to purchase specific gifts for each household member.

Tax-free donations to the Holiday Drive are accepted year-round at bit.ly/HolidayDriveDonate. ✚



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CITY ON ROCKVILLE 11
www.youtube.com/cityofrockville

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.

- **Feb. 9 and 23 Planning Commission** 7 p.m. (Meetings will be held by teleconference. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details closer to the meeting dates.)

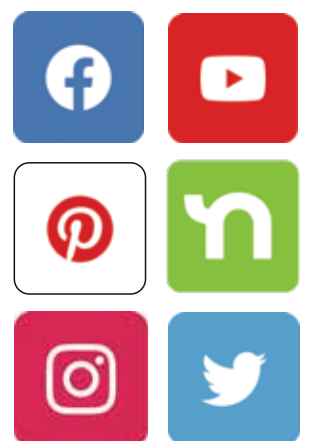
Vacancies

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

- Board of Appeals (1)
- Cultural Arts Commission (2)
- Historic District Commission (2)
- Planning Commission (3)
- Retirement Board (1)
- Rockville Housing Enterprises (1)

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.

City's Financial Assistance Program Can Help in an Emergency

Need financial help? Facing eviction? Utilities about to be shut off? Need help paying for prescription medication?

Emergency financial assistance through the Rockville Emergency Assistance Program is available to eligible Rockville residents facing a financial crisis.

Depending on eligibility, REAP assistance may also be available for funeral and medical expenses. Referrals for emergency food, clothing, financial/employment counseling and other assistance are also provided.

All applicants for financial assistance must have a court-issued notice of eviction or notice of pending disconnection, and must apply to the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. Montgomery County DHHS will submit a referral to the City of Rockville Community Services Division on behalf of eligible city residents.

For more information on REAP, including how to apply, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/reap. To donate to the REAP program and help neighbors in need, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/donate. One-hundred percent of donated funds go to Rockville families.

Volunteer to Shovel Snow for an Elderly or Disabled Neighbor

Each winter, the Rockville Senior Center looks for ways to help older or disabled Rockville residents with snow removal. If you're handy with a shovel and don't mind digging out an extra driveway or clearing a walkway or two, you can sign up and volunteer for the program.

The senior center's home maintenance coordinator organizes the program and can connect you with neighbors in need near your home.

To sign up to volunteer or to request snow-shoveling assistance, email Jerry Jones at gjones@rockvillemd.gov, call Jones at 240-314-8819 or call the Senior Center Support Services office at 240-314-8810.

To sign up for assistance or volunteer online, visit bit.ly/snowshovelvolunteer.

Learn more about 60-plus programs, courses, activities and services at www.rockvillemd.gov/seniorcenter or by calling 240-314-8800. For more on 60-plus activities, see the "Adults 60+" recreation guide at www.rockvillemd.gov/life.

When winter weather strikes, turn to the city's website at www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather for information about Rockville's snow removal policies.



Help Make Rockville More Walkable!

The City of Rockville is developing its first Pedestrian Master Plan.

The plan will help guide the development, construction and maintenance of safe, convenient and equitable pedestrian facilities across the city.

Help envision – and design – the future of walking in Rockville.

Take our survey, engage with us and stay informed at engagerockville.com/pedestrian-master-plan

TAKE THE SURVEY
REALIZA LA ENCUESTA
参加调查



Rewarding Neighborliness with a Good Neighbor Awards Nomination

Rockville prides itself on being a community of good neighbors — we need your help to find them.

The city is seeking nominations, through 5 p.m. Friday Feb. 25, for its Good Neighbor Awards. The program recognizes community members who are unselfishly giving back and improving quality of life in their neighborhoods through good deeds or community service.

The program is designed to honor those who make a difference in our community without seeking or receiving recognition for their service.

Nominees are sought in five categories:

- **Individual adults:** An individual who meets a need in the community by promoting service, social justice, equity, diversity, inclusion and positive change.
- **Individual youth:** An individual up to 18 years of age who meets a need in the community, especially through promoting service, social justice, equity, diversity, inclusion and positive change.
- **Nonprofit:** A group or

individual dedicated to improving, encouraging, and promoting services that help to improve the lives of individuals in under-represented communities, ensuring access to resources and opportunities.

- **Businesses:** A group or individual dedicated to improving, encouraging and promoting sustainable economic development, especially serving under-represented communities, ensuring access to resources and opportunities.
- **Rockville partner:** A person or organization from outside Rockville that has contributed to the good of the city's community.

Award nominees must be Rockville residents, except in the "Rockville partner" category, and must have made a significant contribution to an individual or the community during 2021. Nominators may not nominate themselves.

For more information and nomination forms, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/goodneighbor. ❖



Step Right This Way for Safe Sidewalks

Know a neighborhood that could use a sidewalk?

The city's Sidewalk Prioritization Policy helps determine if, and in what order, the city constructs sidewalks.

A missing sidewalk is any existing or potential pathway that, were it hard surfaced, would be used by pedestrians in their routine educational, recreational, business, shopping, working, civic and social pursuits. Sidewalks are along streets and are typically built within city rights of way.

Prioritization is based on:

- **A utility score,** which assesses a proposed sidewalk's connectivity to existing sidewalks and its proximity to schools, bus stops, Metrorail stations, recreational centers and other nearby pedestrian generators.
- **A traffic conditions score,** which assesses a proposed sidewalk's connection to a street with higher speed limits.

Other considerations, such as the availability of city right of way, public support for the proposed sidewalk, and potential environmental impacts are not scored, but are assessed for construction feasibility.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/sidewalks for more information, including how to request a sidewalk for your neighborhood.

To request sidewalk repairs, visit www.rockvillemd.gov and select "Report a concern" at the bottom of the page, or contact Bryan Barnett-Woods, the city's pedestrian and bicycle coordinator, at bbwoods@rockvillemd.gov.

Visit www.engage.rockville.com/pedestrian-master-plan to learn about the city's Pedestrian Master Plan and to share your thoughts about how to make walking and rolling better in the City of Rockville. ❖

Getting Around Rockville Safely with New Shared Roadway

The city is using signage and arrow-like "sharrow" pavement markings to increase safety on shared roadways in Rockville as part of fulfilling the city's Bikeway Master Plan and Vision Zero goals.

The Bikeway Master Plan, approved by the Mayor and Council in 2017, envisions a multimodal Rockville where people can bicycle safely for recreation and transportation.

The city has already

installed shared roadway signage on more than 50% of the Bikeway Master Plan-designated shared roadways. It is expected that the remainder will be completed this year.

One component of the

plan lays out nearly 14 miles of shared roadways across 33 different city streets. The plan also supports the city's efforts to complete Vision Zero, a transportation safety action plan to eliminate all

continued on pg. 8...



VISION ZERO ROCKVILLE

WHAT IS VISION ZERO?

Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate all traffic and pedestrian fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, fair mobility for all.

Vision Zero is a strategy for a safer community.

- Sets a goal of reducing, and eventually eliminating, traffic-related deaths or serious injuries.
- Recognizes that people make mistakes and crashes will occur, but also that no one should lose their life or suffer life-altering injuries because of such mistakes.
- Acknowledges that many factors contribute to safe mobility and requires an approach to examine the whole system.
- Recognizes that while transportation safety benefits everyone, some members of the community are more at risk for experiencing a serious crash.
- Uses data to target the cause of crashes before they occur, in order to lessen the severity of injuries.

Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/visionzero



WEED WARRIORS PUT A WRAP ON A WEEK OF SERVICE ... Rockville Weed Warrior leaders Chuck Woolery and Monica Berger led a team of 32 volunteers in removing invasive plants from RedGate Park on Jan. 23 to conclude the city's week of service activities in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

Learn how to serve our city throughout the year at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.



HAVE YOUR SAY ON METRO'S BUDGET ... The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority is planning its budget for Fiscal Year 2023, and WMATA is gathering input from customers, local communities and stakeholders. Take a survey online (by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15) and participate in public hearings in-person or virtually. Find information about upcoming public hearings in College Park, Washington, D.C., and Arlington, Virginia at wmata.com/budget.

Rockville Seeks Excellent Environmentalists for Earth Month Accolades

The City of Rockville's Environmental Excellence Awards recognize individuals and organizations that contribute to Rockville's environmental health and sustainability.

Nominations are being accepted in the following categories through 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18 for awards to be presented during Earth Month in April:

- Outstanding Individual Environmental Stewardship.
- Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Practices.
- Outstanding Achievement in Green Building Technology/Design.
- Outstanding Environmental Education and Academic Achievement.

Eligible individuals must live, work or study within the city. Eligible organizations must have an office in Rockville or must be able to demonstrate significant operations within the city limits. Building projects considered as part of a nomination must be within the city.

The awards are presented to an individual or organization by the Mayor and Council. Nominations and supplemental materials are received by the Environment Commission, which review the materials and recommend awards to the Mayor and Council.

For more information about the award categories and guidelines, application forms and eligibility, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/environment/awards, email environment@rockvillemd.gov, or call 240-314-8871. ❄️

Be an Energy Star This Presidents Day Weekend

Buy Energy-Saving Products Feb. 19-21 or Apply for Energy Rebates

Homeowners thinking about upgrading an appliance, replacing a refrigerator, or even changing a light bulb, can do so tax free on Presidents Day weekend.

On Feb. 19-21, purchases of the following energy-efficient Energy Star products are free from Maryland's 6% sales tax:

- Air conditioners.
- Washers and dryers.
- Furnaces.
- Heat pumps.
- Boilers.
- Solar water heaters (tax exempt at all times).
- Standard-size refrigerators.
- Dehumidifiers.
- Programmable thermostats.
- LED light bulbs.

Learn more about Energy Star products at www.energystar.gov. Learn more about the tax-free weekend by visiting marylandtaxes.gov/divisions/comp/peter-franchot.php.

In addition, Pepco offers customers rebates on Energy Star appliances. Learn more at homeenergysavings.pepco.com/appliance-rebate-program.

Washington Gas also offers residential and commercial rebates, including, for residential customers, rebates on furnaces, gas clothes dryers and standard or tankless water heaters. Learn more at washingtongas.com/rebates.

Energy assistance may be available for customers having trouble paying their utility bills. Visit bit.ly/utilityassistance.

Find more energy-saving tips at www.washingtongas.com/safety-education/education/winter-preparedness and additional resources at mygreenmontgomery.org. ❄️



Be Salt Wise in Winter

In the winter, salt keeps us safe while we are on the move, but it also leads to higher levels of salt in the region's drinking water supply.

Remember: More salt isn't always best. Scatter deicer and leave space between the grains only after shoveling and clearing pavement. Sweep up any that is left after the snow and ice melt.

Did You Know?

- A 12-ounce coffee mug full of salt is enough to treat a 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares.
- When pavement temperatures drop below 15 degrees, salt won't work.
- A deicer with calcium magnesium acetate is the most eco-friendly deicer.

Find more tips from the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission at www.wsscwater.com/saltwise or by searching #wintersaltsmart on social media. Learn more at www.potomacriver.org/focus-areas/water-resources-and-drinking-water/water-resources/roadsalts.

Portion of Mt. Vernon Place to Remain Closed Until Mid-May

A portion of Mt. Vernon Place that closed in September as part of the city's improvements to the Mt. Vernon stormwater management facility is scheduled to remain closed through Sunday, May 15.

The closure has been extended due to the discovery of an issue with the condition of an existing utility, which required a plan redesign. While the issue has been resolved, roadway construction is expected to last into May.

Vehicles should continue to utilize Fleet Street or follow posted detour signs to get around the work area.

Pedestrians should continue to follow pedestrian detour signs on streets or continue to use the Elwood Smith Park paved pedestrian path to get around the work area.

Elwood Smith Park will remain open during construction.

The road segment was closed so that city contractors could replace the culvert at the stream crossing near the Elwood Smith Park baseball/softball field and deepen portions of the pond to increase the stormwater management facility's water quality treatment capacity. Doing so helps prevent erosion and flooding downstream and reduces pollution in local tributaries that flow to the Chesapeake Bay.

The facility, near Richard Montgomery High School, was designed and constructed in 1980 and was retrofitted in 2003. This latest project addresses sediment buildup from the last 18 years.

Learn more about the project at RockvilleReports.com/city-awarded-state-grant-for-mt-vernon-stormwater-project.

For more information, contact Diron Baker, Rockville project manager, at 240-314-8533 or dbaker@rockvillemd.gov.

City of Rockville: Winter Weather Reminders

With the worst of the region's winter weather settled in, Rockville is reminding the community about what to expect during snow events.

This snow season, the city is again urging patience on the part of residents as operations and normal service times may be impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Crews will respond as quickly and safely as possible.

Plowing

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.

Clearing Snow From Rights of Way

Removing snow from sidewalks, driveways, curb ramps and entrances is the responsibility of property owners.

Rockville requires that snow 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.

To report a sidewalk that has not been cleared within the required timeframe, call 240-314-8330.

Residents are asked to remove snow from around fire hydrants so that fire crews will have easier access to the hydrants in an emergency. Ice and snow should also be cleared from around storm drains. Avoid shoveling snow into the street when possible.

Recycling and Trash Collection

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash for collection updates.

NUMBERS TO KNOW	
Emergency	911
Report a Downed Tree to the City	240-314-8700
City of Rockville Dept. of Public Works	240-314-8500
Water Main Breaks/Sewer Line Overflows	240-314-8567
Rockville City Police Dept. (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

Recreation and Parks Programs and Community Centers

The city's Recreation and Parks Department evaluates weather conditions. For updates on city program cancellations or delays, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/weather_closings.

Check In on Older or Disabled Neighbors

Residents also are encouraged to check on older or disabled neighbors who may need assistance clearing snow. See the article on page 4 for how to sign up to help.

For more information about snow removal, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather.

In the case of a declared snow emergency, closure and snow emergency information will be available on the website, as well as through the city's Nextdoor account, Facebook (www.facebook.com/cityofrockville) and Twitter (@rockville411), and by signing up for Alert Rockville notifications at www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts.

To report a power outage, visit pepco.com. Report downed wires or trees touching a power line to Pepco at 1-877-737-2662. Be sure to stay clear of downed wires and trees touching power lines. To report a tree blocking a roadway or driveway, call 240-314-8700.

For emergencies, call 911. To report non-emergency concerns to the Rockville City Police Department, call 240-314-8900. ❄️

BE THE FIRST IN THE KNOW EACH WEEK WITH THE "ROCKVILLE REPORTS" NEWSLETTER ... Did you know you can get the latest "Rockville Reports" news directly each week, sent to your email inbox at noon every Sunday? That's right. Visit rockvillereports.com/rockville-reports-newsletter to sign up!

Be Winter Salt Smart!

In the winter, salt keeps us safe while we are on the move. But it can also lead to higher levels of salt in the region's drinking water supply.

#WinterSaltSmart!

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Lantern Festival to Light Up Theater

Rockville's Lantern Festival will be held at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, starting at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11.

The event will feature live onstage cultural performances and will include cultural cuisine and displays.

This family- and kid-friendly event is organized by the Rockville Sister Cities Corporation in partnership with WQER-LP 96.7 FM Radio and the Chinese Culture Institute.

Concessions open at 6 p.m. The live performance begins at 7 p.m. The festival is free and open to the public. Face coverings are mandatory for all visitors to Rockville facilities, as the city continues its efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19. The requirement applies to all staff and visitors aged 2 and older, whatever their vaccination status. Social distancing will be in place.

For more information, contact RSCC at rockvillesistercities@gmail.com or 240-314-5029.

Learn more about the Rockville Sister Cities Corporation at www.rockvillesistercities.org. The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre is at 603 Edmonston Drive.

Register Now for Spring Sports

Adult Sports Are Now Registering

Leagues available during the spring are: men's softball; co-rec softball; co-rec indoor volleyball; co-rec outdoor sand volleyball; and co-rec soccer.

Game nights vary. Registration deadlines for adult league players and teams are in late March.

Youth sports for spring are youth coach-pitch baseball, T-ball, soccer, and track and field.

The registration deadline is Thursday, March 10.

Practices for youth track and field begin at the end of March, with meets beginning in mid-April. Practices for youth soccer, T-ball and coach-pitch baseball begin in early April, with games beginning mid-April.

Coaches are needed for teams in spring youth sports leagues. If you're interested in taking part, contact sports@rockvillemd.gov.

Sports programs are held outdoors (unless specified) using safety precautions provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. Participants' safety is the city's primary concern.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/sports for league details and registration information, or call 240-314-8620.

MLK Day Recap

continued from pg. 1...

the kitchen and with customers. After students complete the program, Sunflower helps them obtain jobs in Rockville and surrounding communities. Sunflower's training program has produced 116 graduates. During the pandemic, Sunflower has raised money to deliver muffins to local food pantries and to hospital staff.

Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Award

Awarded to a high school student who lives in or attends school in Rockville who has worked to fulfill King's dream in either their school or the community.

Rokia "Riki" Doumbia, a Richard Montgomery High School student, was selected as the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Award recipient. Through her role as the publishing director of Montgomery County for Public Health, she presented testimony before committees of the Maryland General Assembly in favor of legislation regulating flavored tobacco products and focusing on the disproportionate impact of flavored tobacco products on young people of color. She also helped recruit students through the Richard Montgomery Student Equity Committee for the creation of a video aiming to increase the participation of people of color in the International Baccalaureate program.

What's Hot This Month at the F. Scott

Enjoy a psychological mystery, swing, and a world of magic and romance, this month at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Drive.

Rockville Little Theatre presents "Bad Seed."

Showtimes are 8 p.m. Feb. 4 and 5 and 2 p.m. Feb. 6. Tickets: \$22; \$20, seniors (62 and older) and students.

Christine Penmark seems to have it all, but when a child drowns under suspicious circumstances, the whole town starts to speculate about what really happened.

Was it truly an accident? Was it a classmate? Who knows more than they're telling? Christine's secret past is revealed and the fear grows to a chilling finale in this psychological thriller.

Written by Maxwell Anderson from William March's novel. Directed by Pauline Griller-Mitchell.

The Rockville Concert Band presents "Swing, Swing, Swing."

A concert with guest ensemble, the Rockville Swing Band, 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13, conducted by director Juan Gallastegui.

Tickets will be required for seating and social distancing will be in place.

Victorian Lyric Opera Company presents "Iolanthe."

Showtimes are 8 p.m. Feb. 25, 26 and March 4, 5;

2 p.m. Feb. 27 and March 6. Tickets: \$28; \$26, seniors; \$24, students.

A world of magic, wonder and fairies is not so far from our own, as young Strephon knows all too well. Aided by his band of immortal fairies, including his mother, Iolanthe, Strephon attempts to woo the beautiful Phyllis, but the influential Lord Chancellor has other plans.

The show features some of Gilbert and Sullivan's most memorable tunes, including "When Britain Ruled the Waves" and "Loudly Let the Trumpets Bray." Directed by Jacklyn and Kathie Rogers. Music direction by Joseph Sorge.

Learn more at www.vloc.org.

Face coverings are mandatory for all visitors to Rockville facilities, as the city continues its efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19. The requirement applies to all staff and visitors aged 2 and older, whatever their vaccination status. Social distancing will be in place.

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. ❖

February is Heart Health Month at the Senior Center

Stay home and stay healthy with free online seminars from the Rockville Senior Center in February.

Register with the course number at www.rockville.md.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.

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

Your Heart Your Life Series

Providing information virtually for understanding, skill building, self-assessment and goal setting for healthy lifestyle changes. Presented by Adventist HealthCare.

Session 5: Be Heart Smart, Keep Your Cholesterol in Check

Register with course #21009. Tuesday, Feb. 1.

The Journey of Grief: Remembering Those We Love and Taking Care of Ourselves

A supportive virtual session to discuss the nature of grief and how to care for ourselves while grieving. Presented by Kip Ingram, director of bereavement for Montgomery Hospice.

Register with course #21645. Friday, Feb. 11.

Oral Meds Versus Topicals or Injectables for Musculoskeletal and Neuromuscular Conditions

Medical management of chronic musculoskeletal con-

ditions includes a wide range of options in medications — types, delivery methods, protocols and efficacy can be variable. This virtual session covers commonly used medications and/or delivery protocols in the treatment of chronic conditions. Presented by Dr. M. Massumi, Massumi Associates, Pain Management and Rehabilitation.

Register with course #20998. Wednesday, Feb. 16. 1-2:30 p.m.

Legal and Financial Planning

An Alzheimer's disease diagnosis makes planning for the future more important than ever. Families need accurate information about legal and financial planning specific to the disease. This workshop is a virtual two-part interactive program on how to put plans in place, and access those legal and financial resources. Presented through the Alzheimer's Association.

Legal Planning Part 1

Register with course #21002. Wednesday, Feb. 9.

Financial Planning Part 2

Register with course #21003. Thursday, Feb. 17.

Love Your Heart!

February is American Heart Month. This virtual session, presented by Adventist HealthCare and led by a cardiac-registered nurse, will discuss heart disease and stroke risk factors, prevention, treatments and the latest emerging science.

Register with course #21006. Wednesday, Feb. 23. ❖

Your Adventure Awaits with Rockville's 2022 Summer Camps

Rockville's 2022 summer camp season will be here before you know it. Don't wait to start your kids' adventures — give them memories and stories to last a lifetime.

Registration opens Thursday, March 10 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

Park Adventure Camps, for kids aged 5-12, will be open from June 21 until mid-August at up to 16 locations throughout Rockville.

Park Adventure Camps offer half-day, full-day and extended-day options and

feature a variety of activities including games, crafts, water activities and outdoor play time. Swimming and field trips will return this year at full-day and extended-day sites.

Specialized camps include cooking, drama, STEAM, gymnastics, art and fashion design.

Teens can earn Student Service Learning hours in in-service learning camps or take daily trips with our Teens on the Go camps.

College and high school students aged 16 or older who are looking to refine their leadership skills can



apply for summer camp positions at www.rockville.md.gov/careers.

Rockville's camp staff are chosen for their enthusiasm, passion and experience in working with children.

All camps are licensed by the state of Maryland

and follow federal, state and local COVID-19 health and safety guidelines.

Visit www.rockville.md.gov/camps for more information and view the "Summer Camps 2022" guide at www.rockville.md.gov/life, beginning March 7. ❖



MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ... Now on Rockville 11's YouTube channel (youtube.com/cityofrockville): See highlights from Rockville's Martin Luther King Jr. celebration and remember a pillar of Lincoln Park, Fran Hawkins, who died in December.

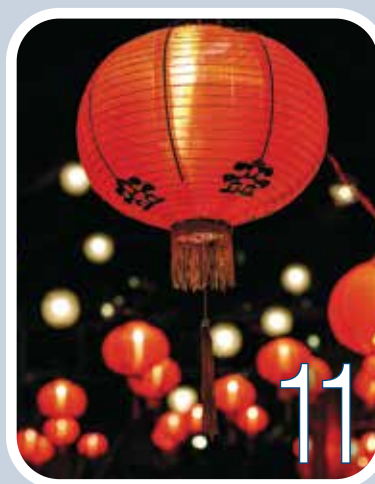
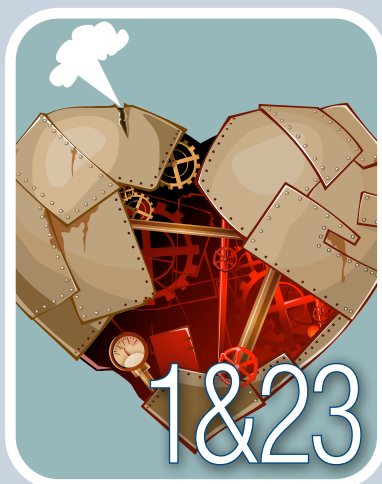
February CALENDAR

FACILITIES LEGEND:

- CC** Croydon Creek Nature Ctr., 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 Ctr., 357 Frederick Ave., 240-314-8780.

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

- V** Virtual Program/Offering
- F** Facebook Live Event



1 V YOUR HEART, YOUR LIFE SERIES: SESSION 5 Understanding, skill building, self-assessment and goal setting for healthy lifestyle changes. Participate in interactive activities including role play, problem solving and discussion. Sign up for one or more sessions. Presented by Adventist HealthCare. Register with course #21009. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

1,15 V POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM: INCREASING MOTIVATION Group discussion of the book "Rethinking Positive Thinking: Inside the New Science of Motivation," by Gabrielle Oettingen. Meets first and third Tuesdays. Register with course #21091. 2-4 p.m. **SR**

3 V UNDERSTANDING AND REDUCING BULLYING AMONG OLDER ADULTS See article on page 6. Course #21102. 10-11:30 a.m. **SR**

3,10,17,24 V GRUPO DE APOYO HISPANO Las personas mayores pueden compartir sus miedos y frustraciones; recibir apoyo sin juzgar; creando un espacio para compartir sentimientos. Guiado José Hernández, terapeuta bilingüe de Affiliated Santé Group. Noon-1 p.m. **SR**

3,17 V POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM: WOMEN LIVING ALONE See article on page 6. Course #21086. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

4,11,18,25 V DECLUTTERING Discover effective ways to declutter with this virtual eight-week course. Register with course #21239. 11 a.m.-noon. **SR**

4,11,18,25 V POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM: MANAGING STRESS DURING THE PANDEMIC An ongoing support and educational group for coping with isolation, anxiety, depression and loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants learn coping skills from the facilitator and each other. Meets every Friday. Register with course #21089. 11 a.m.-noon. **SR**

7 V MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING

7,21 MEMORY CAFÉ Alzheimer's Association Memory Cafes offer a fun and relaxed way for people living with early-stage memory loss to connect through social events that promote interaction and companionship. Meets first and third Monday of the month. Must contact representative Sheila Griffith at 240-844-3608 or sagriffith@alz.org before attending. Register with course #21020. Noon-1 p.m. **SR**

7,14,21,28 V STRESS REDUCTION/MEDITATION This class offers the tools to focus, relax and come to a more peaceful sense of being with time for both meditation and discussion. Held Mondays, Jan. 10-March 21. Register with course #20996. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

8 V SCIENCE TUESDAY Engaging monthly presentations — no scientific background required. Previous subjects include Earth's magnetic field, earthworms and the invention of closed captioning. Register with course #21011. 1-2 p.m.

8,22 V BRAIN GAMES Work your brain and compete with peers in various games and puzzles. Meets second and fourth Tuesdays. Register with course #21088. 2-4 p.m. **SR**

9,17 V LEGAL AND FINANCIAL PLANNING: PART 1 AND 2 See article on page 6. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

10,24 V LIVING ALONE (FOR MEN AND WOMEN) An opportunity for men and women who live alone to socialize, discuss topics of interest, share challenges and support each other. Meets second and fourth Thursday of each month. Register with course #21090. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

11 V THE JOURNEY OF GRIEF: REMEMBERING THOSE WE LOVE AND TAKING CARE OF OURSELVES A supportive session to discuss the nature of grief and how to take care while grieving. Presented by Kip Ingram, director of bereavement, Montgomery Hospice. Register with course #21645. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

11 ROCKVILLE ANNUAL LANTERN FESTIVAL See article on page 6. 6-9 p.m. **FSF**

13 THE ROCKVILLE CONCERT BAND PRESENTS "SWING, SWING, SWING" See article on page 6. 3 p.m. **FSF**

16 V ORAL MEDS VERSUS TOPICALS OR INJECTABLES FOR MUSCULOSKELETAL AND NEUROMUSCULAR CONDITIONS Medical management of chronic musculoskeletal conditions includes a wide range of options in medications. Reviews commonly used medications and delivery protocols in the treatment of chronic conditions. Register with course #20998. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

17 V BETTER BREATHERS CLUB Monthly educational presentations on topics that include how disease affects the lungs, breathing techniques, exercise, talking with your physician, medications and treatment options. Meets third Thursdays. Register with course #21062. **SR**

18 V MEDITACION Esta clase se enfocara en tecnicas de respiracion lenta y profunda y posturas meditativas. No se requiere experiencia. Register with course #21711. 12:15-12:45 p.m. **SR**

20 FAMILIES OUTSIDE: TREE HUNT Explore the habitats of the John Hayes Forest Preserve with naturalist-led outings and enjoy the wonders surrounding the nature center. Adults and children must register; all children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 3 and older. 2-3 p.m. **CC**

21 CITY GOVERNMENT CLOSED for Presidents Day. See article on page 1.

23 V LOVE YOUR HEART! See article on page 6. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

24 V PEERLESS ROCKVILLE PRESENTS "LINCOLN PARK: SPECIAL PLACES, PEOPLE, AND STORIES" See article on page 8. Free. 7 p.m.

25,26,27 VICTORIAN LYRIC OPERA COMPANY PRESENTS "IOLANTHE" See article on page 6. **FSF**

26 LITTLE EXPLORERS Go on hiking adventures with nature center naturalists, play games and discover outdoors fun. Dress for the weather and wear a mask. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 2-5. Spaces limited. Registration required with course #21222 or #21223. \$8 R/\$10 NR. Sessions at 9:30-10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.-noon. **CC**

28 V MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORK SESSION

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

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

International Night 2022

Friday, March 18, 6-8 p.m.

F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Social Hall

Looking for Performers!

Are you interested in showcasing your skills, and celebrating and sharing your cultural talent? We'd love to have you perform at this year's City of Rockville's International Night!

If interested, please email yyeboah@rockvillemd.gov by February 25.

Know anyone 60+ who needs our help?

We're here as a helping hand for your older neighbors, friends or relatives.



CONNECT THEM
WITH US!



Call 240-314-8800.
Email SeniorCenter@rockvillemd.gov.
Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/397/Services.

- ✓ Food & Financial Assistance
- ✓ Counseling & Outreach
- ✓ Support
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Connecting with Peers
- ✓ Grocery Shopping
- ✓ Home Maintenance
- ✓ Health, Wellness, Technology & Education
- ✓ Medical Equipment Loans

A Little Piece of Land to Grow Your Own

Registration Open for Garden Plots

If your yard's too small to cultivate the seasonal bounty you've always dreamed of, maybe it's time for an upgrade.

The City of Rockville has 193 garden plots, approximately 25-by-25 feet, available for rent at Woottons Mill Park for growing food and other plants.

The cost is \$85 per plot for nonresidents; Rockville residents pay \$75 per plot. Registration for the garden plot program opens Monday, Jan. 10. The season runs April 1-Nov. 13.

The city provides water spigots and mulch; gardeners are responsible for fencing, weed barriers, hoses, tools and other gardening supplies.

Registration forms can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/gardenplots. Call the Rockville Civic Center's main office at 240-314-8660 or email woottonsmill@rockvillemd.gov for more info.

Explore Lincoln Park – Virtually – With Peerless Rockville

Peerless Rockville presents "Lincoln Park: Special Places, People, and Stories" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24 via Zoom.

The Rockville neighborhood of Lincoln Park was founded in 1891 and became one of Maryland's first real estate developments for Black families. Join this online presentation, featuring Lincoln Park native Sandra Davis, to explore the neighborhood's history, personalities and favorite sites and buildings. Learn about the enduring strength, neighborly bonds, and architectural gems of this historic community.

Register at peerlessrockville.org.

Rockville Memorial Library Hosts Exhibit on County Lynchings

In observance of Black History Month, an exhibit memorializing three men who were lynched in Montgomery County will be on display throughout February at Rockville Memorial Library.

"It Happened in Rockville: Remembering Two Lynchings," will be on display in the main atrium of the library, 21 Maryland Ave., in Rockville Town Square. Find library hours at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Library/branches/rockville.html.

Created by the Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project, the exhibit memorializes two men lynched in Rockville: John Diggs-Dorsey, in 1880, and Sidney Randolph, in 1896. A third man, George Peck, was lynched in Poolesville in 1880. The exhibit is part of MoCoLMP's initiative to educate and engage the public in acknowledging the history and legacy of lynching and racial terrorism in Montgomery County.

Working with the Montgomery, Alabama-based Equal Justice Initiative, and the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project, MoCoLMP is part of an effort to advance the cause of racial reconciliation in Maryland, advocating for public acknowledgment of these murders, and working to honor and dignify the lives of the victims.

When the exhibit was first displayed at Peerless Rockville, visitors called it "Powerful!" "Must-viewing for our schools" and, "An informative, beautiful and moving exhibit."

The exhibit includes jars of soil collected near the lynching sites, and photographs and information about the Black community in historic Rockville and about Remembrance Weekend events that were held in September.

For more information, email mocolynchingmemorial@gmail.com.



Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

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

Answering Questions About City Elections

Charter Review Commission Launches Online Questionnaire and Sets Town Hall Meeting for March

Rockville's Charter Review Commission is asking city residents for ideas about how to increase voter turnout, update the city's election process and engage more communities.

The commission is using an online questionnaire, and is planning a town hall meeting, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 15, to gather community input about how to improve city elections for all. Save the date for the town hall meeting and watch the city's webpage, social media and March's "Rockville Reports" for more details.

The questionnaire, at www.rockvillemd.gov/Charter-Review-Commission, presents a unique opportunity to share thoughts with the commission and help create meaningful change for the next decade. Responses will in-

form the commission's ongoing work. The deadline for responses has been extended to Friday, March 25.

Every decade or so, the Charter Review Commission looks at ways to update the charter so that it best serves all residents. In 2021, the Mayor and Council appointed 11 commissioners to review the city's charter, with a focus on examining city elections.

About 70% of registered voters in Rockville did not vote in the city's 2019 election. The next city election is in November 2023.

The charter is a legal document that resembles a constitution. It outlines how the city is organized, runs elections, levies taxes, adopts ordinances, provides services and more. Find the charter at www.rockvillemd.gov/124/City-Code-Charter. ❖



QUARTERBACKS GET FLUSHED OUT OF THE POCKET – BUT TRASH SHOULDN'T BE FLUSHED DOWN YOUR TOILET ... Make sure to keep your toilet bowl a super bowl. During halftime, give your toilet a break too. Flushing trash like dental floss, sanitary napkins, tampons, hair, kitty litter and even "flushable" wipes can cause costly clogs and sewer backups. Protect your pipes and make sure trash ends up where it belongs ... in your trash can. Learn more about Rockville's flushing problem at www.rockvillemd.gov/Toilets-Arent-Trash-Cans.



Get Into It

City Manager: Rob DiSpirito
Deputy City Manager: Angela Judge
Director of Communication: Kathy Kirk-Dantzler

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Environmental Speaker Series to Launch with Timely Talk About Lawn Care

Rockville's Climate Solutions Speaker Series Kicks Off in March

Rockville celebrates Earth Month each April but is getting started a month early with the kickoff of the new Climate Solutions Speaker Series in March, and a look at how organic lawn care can lead to a healthier environment and a healthy lawn.

The series kickoff, "How to Maintain a Healthy, Organic Lawn" at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 10 features Mary Travaglini, manager of the organic lawn and landscape program for the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection. Travaglini will present practical lawn care steps you can take to reduce your carbon footprint and help protect Rockville's environment. For more information, and to register for this online presentation, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.aspx?EID=9053.

The subject of the series kickoff is timely, as 2022 brings new restrictions on how Rockville does lawn care. A new law that went into effect Jan. 1, applies Montgomery County's

pesticide law to the city, restricting the use of certain pesticides on private lawns, playgrounds, mulched recreation areas and child care facilities, and prohibits most synthetic pesticides. To learn more, find the April 26 Mayor and Council agenda at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. Find tips about making a successful switch to organic lawn care this spring at montgomery-countymd.gov/lawns.

Future lectures in the series will be held monthly in the spring and fall. To stay up to date on speakers as they are announced, check the city's online calendar at www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.aspx and future issues of "Rockville Reports."

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters to subscribe to the city's "Environment and Sustainability News" email newsletter for speaker series announcements, updates about city environmental efforts and events, news about Rockville's first Climate Action Plan, and tips for living greener year-round. ❖

Vision Zero

continued from pg. 4...

traffic-related deaths and serious injuries.

A shared roadway has a sign or a pavement marking that informs people driving and riding bicycles that they should be mindful of each other, and that in some instances they may need to travel single file. Shared roadways are generally characterized as roads that have low speed limits and low traffic volumes but may not be appropriate, or have the space, for a full bicycle lane. According to state law, bicyclists may use any road, regardless of a shared roadway designation, unless explicitly prohibited, such as on a freeway.

Tips for Sharing the Road

If you find yourself on a

shared roadway, be sure to look out for people bicycling and driving and make sure that there's at least 3 feet of space between you when passing. If there isn't enough space, be patient. Most shared roadways are less than a half-mile long. There'll be a passing opportunity soon enough. Riding and driving safely on shared roadways is important to eliminating transportation-related deaths and serious injuries, and helping the city achieve Vision Zero.

For questions about shared roadways and driving or bicycling in mixed traffic, contact pedestrian and bicycle coordination Bryan Barnett-Woods at bbwoods@rockvillemd.gov. ❖



BACK IN THE DAY ... The Rockville City Police Department was welcoming aboard a new recruit in 2013 — Officer Recon, a German shepherd, was signing up to the K-9 unit. He would replace Officer Boomer, who was retiring after a distinguished seven years of service. (Good boy.)