



RockvilleReports

FEBRUARY 2023 • VOL. 68 #2



SEE PAGE 6
FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

• FIND MORE CITY NEWS AT WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV •

Hearing on Voting Age, Vote on Mayor and Council Size Are On the Agenda for February

Rockville's Mayor and Council will consider in February several recommendations from the city's Charter Review Commission that could change the city's voting age, the size of Mayor and Council and other elements of city elections.

On Monday, Feb. 6, the Mayor and Council are scheduled to hold a public hearing on recommendations that, if adopted, would amend the city charter to lower the voting age from 18 to 16, permit noncitizens to vote, set term limits, create representative districts, create an administrative process to fill a vacancy on the council, change election years to coincide with presidential or gubernatorial elections, and implement ranked-choice voting. Learn how to testify during the Feb. 6 hearing at www.rockvillemd.gov/hearings and find more information when the agenda is

posted at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

The Mayor and Council must consider whether any of the recommendations should be included as ballot questions for voters to decide when they vote in the city election in November. They are expected to be on the agenda for discussion during the Monday, Feb. 27 meeting.

Also on Feb. 27, the Mayor and Council are scheduled to vote on whether to expand the elected body from five members to seven, comprising a mayor and six councilmembers. A public hearing on the recommendation was scheduled for Jan. 30. Find video of the hearing at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

To read the commission's recommendations, find the 2022 Charter Review Commission Report at www.rockvillemd.gov/charter-review-commission. ✚

Mayor and Council Approve Regulations for Accessory Apartments and Dwelling Units

Short-Term Residential and Room Rentals Discussion to be Held Feb. 27

The Mayor and Council in January initiated a public review process for changing city code and the zoning ordinance related to accessory apartments and accessory dwelling units, or ADUs.

Accessory apartments are small dwelling units either located within or attached to a single-family detached residence, subject to certain criteria.

The code as it stands allows such dwellings through a potentially lengthy approval process for a special exception from the Board of Appeals. Proposed code changes would allow approval by staff, subject to compliance with certain criteria, reducing processing time.

ADUs, defined as small dwellings within a detached accessory structure on a single-family lot, are not currently permitted in the city. The proposed code changes would allow approval of ADUs by staff, subject to certain criteria, as a conditional use. If approved, such units would be subject to the same inspection requirements as other rental units in the city.

If the Mayor and Council authorize the amendments following the review, they will be presented to the Planning Commission for a recommendation. The Mayor and Council will hold public hearings on the amendments before making a decision.

At their Feb. 27 meeting, the Mayor and Council will consider code changes to implement regulations for short-term residential rentals, as well as to regulate the rental of rooms within a residence.

The intent of the proposed changes are to clarify when short-term rentals, typically booked through services such as AirBnB and VRBO, are permitted. Proposed conditions include limitations on the number of days per year that a unit may be rented, as well as limitations on the amount of rental unit guests.

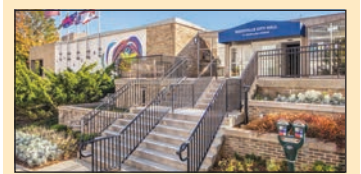
Should the regulations be adopted, landlords would be required to register units with the city and be subject to the city's hotel tax.

The city's zoning ordinance allows up to two people to occupy a dwelling in addition to the resident family. This has been interpreted to permit up to two rooms to be rented to individuals who are not family members.

At present, there are no requirements related to safety inspections, or for such rentals to be subject to the city's landlord-tenant ordinance. The proposed regulations would require that rental of rooms be licensed and subject to regular inspection, as the rental of residences are currently.

Draft versions of the city code and zoning ordinance amendments are available as part of the Mayor and Council agenda packet for the Jan. 23 meeting, and the Feb. 27 meeting, when posted, at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

For more information, contact Jim Wasilak, zoning administrator, at 240-314-8211 or by email at jwasilak@rockvillemd.gov. ✚



Presidents Day Brings Closures in Rockville

City government, including City Hall and most city facilities, will be closed on Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 20.

Recycling and trash will be collected as usual on Monday, Feb. 20 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. 20.

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center and the Rockville Skate Park will be open for regular hours on Feb. 20. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter or www.rockvillemd.gov/skatepark 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.

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



Rockville Honors MLK and Boldly Imagines the Future

The city's 51st annual Martin Luther King Day celebration, held Jan. 16, included performances and the presentations of two awards to community members carrying on King's legacy.

Sharon Jackson Wilder, the inaugural chief equity and inclusion officer for Montgomery College, delivered a keynote address based on the celebration's theme of "Boldly Imagining Our Future." Spoken word artist Unique Robinson served as the emcee. Find highlights of the celebration this month on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, and on the city's YouTube

channel.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Award, awarded to a high school student or students who live in or attend school in Rockville and have worked to fulfill King's dream in either their school or their community, was awarded to two students.

Richard Montgomery High School student Dana Ayebara was recognized for her contributions to MoCo Against Brutality, a student-led campaign to end police violence and reform the criminal justice

continued on pg. 7...

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

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

如果您希望以您的语言查找此信息，至网站RockvilleReports.com，打网页右上方的谷歌翻“选言”选单。

Bénéficiez de ces informations dans votre langue. Allez sur le site RockvilleReports.com et ouvrez le menu « Select Language » (choisir la langue) de Google Translate, situé en haut à droite de la page.

이 정보를 한국어로 보실 수 있습니다. RockvilleReports.com을 방문하여 페이지 오른쪽 위 Google Translate의 "Select Language" (원하는 언어) 메뉴를 여십시오.

In This Issue...

- 2** Crash Audits
- 3** Justice and Equity Report
- 5** Call 988 for a Lifeline
- 8** Holiday Drive Generosity

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

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SUBURBAN, MD.
PERMIT NO. 63

ECR WSS
LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Lantern Festival to Light Up FSF Theater

Rockville Sister Cities Corporation, in partnership with WQER-LP 96.7 FM Radio and the Chinese Culture Institute will hold its annual Lantern Festival from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Social Hall at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive.

The family-friendly event is free to attend and features cultural performances, displays and ethnic cuisine.

For more information, contact Rockville Sister Cities Corporation at 240-314-5029 or RockvilleSisterCities@gmail.com, or visit RockvilleSisterCities.org.

Avoid Snow Shoveling Injuries With These Tips

Shoveling snow can be one of the leading causes of lower-back injury in winter months. When you're shoveling your patch, shovel safely with these tips:

Warm up and stretch: Get your heart rate up before beginning a strenuous activity, such as shoveling snow, and remember to stretch your legs and back before heavy lifting or moving.

Push, rather than lift: This can reduce your risk of a lower-back injury.

Bend with your legs (or hips and knees): Don't bend your lower back. Keep your back straight when lifting, and tighten your stomach muscles or abs.

Wear footwear or boots with proper tread and water resistance: Avoid slips with the right footwear.

Take frequent breaks throughout your lifting activity, and keep stretching throughout.

Stop shoveling immediately if you experience dizziness, shortness of breath or sudden pain to your lower back.

To volunteer to help shovel snow for your elderly neighbors — or if you need help with shoveling — see the article on page 4.

After-Crash Audits Add to City's Approach to Vision Zero

The city's Vision Zero Task Force is using a new audit process to examine roadways and identify needed improvements following several serious and fatal crashes on Rockville roads last fall.

The visual inspection audit includes assessing pavement markings, signs, sidewalks, roadway quality and traffic signals on roadways where crashes occur.

The audit is conducted before the Montgomery County Department of Police's Collision Reconstruction Unit files its report, which examines the crash environment and circumstances. The CRU is examining fatal collisions on Oct. 28 and Dec. 1 on Rockville Pike (MD 355), north of the intersection at Talbott Street, and a collision that resulted in serious injury Nov. 14 on East Gude Drive, south of the Taft Court/Taft Street intersection.

City Department of Public Works staff completed a visual inspection on East Gude Drive between Southlawn Lane and Norbeck Road (MD 28), and along Rockville Pike from Edmonston Drive to Country Club Road. Staff identified the need for refreshing crosswalks and stop bars along East Gude Drive at Rothgeb Drive and Southlawn Lane, and refreshing pavement markings at East Gude Drive and Norbeck Road, Rockville Pike and Talbott Street, and at Rockville Pike and Country Club Road. Staff also



recommended replacing a "Share the Road" sign at 1100 Rockville Pike and inspected signals at the intersection of East Gude Drive and Taft Court/Taft Street, finding that all traffic signals and pedestrian signals were working properly.

Staff added pavement markings at East Gude Drive and Rothgeb Drive to its list for restriping and notified the State Highway Administration of the need for pavement marking restriping and sign replacement along Rockville Pike, which is a state road.

In addition to the engineering improvements, audits will identify whether additional police enforcement or public notifications are necessary.

The task force, comprising staff from the city's Department of Public Works, police department and public information office, meets regularly to discuss progress on the city's Vision Zero Action Plan.

The Mayor and Council adopted a Vision Zero plan in 2020 to eliminate traffic- and pedestrian-related deaths and serious injuries. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/visionzero.

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 state-wide "If I Were Mayor" essay contest.

This year's theme is "Preserving the Past to Power the Future." Students are asked to write an essay of no more than 275 words after thinking about their hometown and its traditions, beliefs or events. Which ones would they uplift and honor? Which would they try to change? And how would they get people to participate in things they're trying to change?

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 Friday, March 31. For more



2022 Mayor for a Day
Mithran Karthic.

information, including contest rules and forms for submitting entries online, visit mdmunicipal.org/168/Mayors-Essay-Contest.

In addition to winners chosen by MML, the mayor will select a student attending school in Rockville to serve as the city's Mayor for a Day in May.

Mayor Newton welcomes the opportunity to speak with students virtually, about the essay contest, municipal government and what it is 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 TOWN SQUARE PARKING

2 HOURS
OF FREE
PARKING

NO
VALIDATION
REQUIRED

Help the Rockville City Police Department Take the Plunge

Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge

Friday, Feb. 3

Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis

Pledge in Support of Rockville's Plunge Team • Support Special Olympics Maryland

Visit support.somd.org/team/464747



College for This K-9

K-9 Completes Explosive Detection Training

The Rockville City Police Department recently celebrated an accomplishment by a dynamic duo that gives city law enforcement a leg up — four legs, actually — in its mission to protect and serve our community.

Rockville City Police Department Cpl. Ali Zeighani and his K-9 partner, Bolo, completed a rigorous two-month K-9 college-training program in explosive detection hosted by the Montgomery County

Department of Police.

Whether tracking suspects, detecting explosives or firearms, locating missing persons, or identifying illegal substances, K-9 units are specialized members of a police department, able to perform tasks that would be difficult or impossible for a human alone to accomplish.

"As a highly skilled and highly trained duo, K-9 Bolo and his handler, Cpl. Zeighani, have become a vital asset to RCPD, working

tirelessly to keep our community safe," police Chief Victor Brito said.

Completion of the training program strengthens the K-9 program as an invaluable resource for keeping both the City of Rockville and RCPD officers safe. With their ability to detect explosives, K-9 Bolo and Zeighani are now better equipped to search for and locate potential threats, making them more effective at their jobs. This is especially important in high-risk situations, such as large public events or active-shooter situations.

continued on pg. 4...

REDUCE YOUR RADON RISK

The only way to know is to test!

Find resources about test kits, mitigation methods and questions to ask a professional at the webpage below.



Radon is a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas that can build up inside the home and increase the risk of lung cancer.



Test your home at least every two years. It's easy and inexpensive.



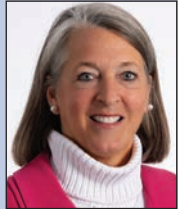
If your radon levels are 4.0 pCi/L or higher, consult a radon mitigation professional.



www.rockvillemd.gov/radon



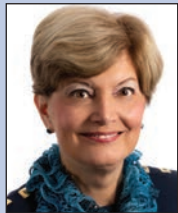
PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS FROM THE COLD ... Montgomery County issues hypothermia alerts when temperatures and/or wind chill are expected to be at or below 32 degrees. Call 301-279-8000 to report a safety concern for a person or a pet. Learn more at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OPI/alerts/hypothermia.html.



Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton
240-314-8291
bnewton@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Monique Ashton
240-314-8295
mashton@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg
240-314-8293
bfeinberg@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember David Myles
240-314-8294
dmyles@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Mark Pierzchala
240-314-8292
mpierzchala@rockvillemd.gov

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

Meetings Schedule: Mondays, Feb. 6 and 27 at 7 p.m. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details.

The Feb. 6 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/CityClerk-11/Sign-up-for-Dropin-Meetings-227.

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

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

All comments will be acknowledged by the Mayor and Council at the meeting and added to the agenda for public viewing on the website.

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

City Manager to Present FY24 Budget to Mayor and Council

Budget Hearings and Work Sessions Set; Survey Available

City Manager Rob DiSpirito is scheduled to present his proposed Fiscal Year 2024 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program on Monday, Feb. 27, followed by Mayor and Council public hearings and work sessions in March and April.

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

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

The \$148.8 million budget for Fiscal Year 2023, which began

FY 2024 Budget Calendar:

- **Monday, Feb. 27:** Presentation of city manager's proposed FY24 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program.
 - **Monday, March 6:** Public hearing and work session.
 - **Monday, March 20:** Work session.
 - **Monday, April 17:** Public hearing and work session.
 - **Friday, April 21:** Close of budget survey and budget public record.
 - **Monday, May 1:** Work session.
 - **Monday, May 8:** Adoption of the FY24 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program.
 - **Saturday, July 1:** FY24 begins.
- Note: Budget calendar dates are subject to change.*

July 1, keeps the city's real property tax rate of \$0.292 per \$100 of assessed valuation the same. All residential and commercial property owners pay this tax. Rockville has not increased its property tax rate since 1995.

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

City's Youth Commission Seek Members

Rockville's Youth Commission is looking for young people from our community to partner with city staff and help shape Rockville's future.

The Youth Commission, comprised of 16- to 21-year-olds who live or attend high school or Montgomery College in the city, will develop recommendations for the Mayor and Council about programs, policies and legislation to promote the health and well-being of young adults by identifying, monitoring and evaluating youth services, programs, and activities

offered in Rockville and surrounding areas.

Five members of the 11-member Youth Commission will be appointed for two-year terms and six members for one-year terms.

To learn more about the city's boards and commissions, including how to apply, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions.

Hear from Rockville residents about how they are sharing their time and talents by serving on a board or commission: Visit [youtube.com/c/cityofrockville](https://www.youtube.com/c/cityofrockville) and search "Join a board." ❖

City's Equity Advisor Makes 6-Month Report to Mayor and Council

Tyree Davis IV, Rockville's advisor to the city manager for justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, in January presented a report on his first six months in the post to the Mayor and Council, and outlined his plans for the future.

Davis was hired in June to fill the first-of-its-kind role for the city. He heads the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Division under the City Manager's Office. The mission of the division is to engage community stakeholders and establish equity and inclusion as shared values across the community and the City of Rockville as an organization.

Justice, equity, diversity and inclusion are core values of city government and among the Mayor and Council's top priorities.

Rockville is one of the most diverse small cities in the nation, in 2020 ranking seventh overall and fourth among small cities in the U.S. for its ethnic diversity. More than one-third of the city's more than 68,000 residents were born outside of the U.S.

Among numerous other initiatives, Rockville has passed two resolutions stating city government's support for its diverse community: One to endorse and commit to the establishment of government policies and practices that promote racial equity and social justice, which considers future policies, practices, actions and decisions through the lens of equity; and a second, Hate Has No Place Here, which condemns and denounces hate-motivated violence.

Davis said that, over the past six months, he had set a foundation for the work to follow, identifying and outlining in a matrix numerous actions for the Mayor and Council to consider, including engagement with the community during the 2023 city

continued on pg. 7...

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 the city's online calendar: www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.aspx.

- **Feb. 8 and 22** Planning Commission 7 p.m. (To participate, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details closer to the date.)

Vacancies

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

- Board of Supervisors of Elections (1)
- Community Policing Advisory Commission (3)
- Education Commission (11)
- Human Services Advisory Board (2)
- Planning Commission (2)
- Senior Citizens Commission (1)
- Youth Commission (11)

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

► SPEAK UP ◀

Report potential fraud, waste and abuse related to City of Rockville government services and employees.

Call 1-866-921-6714

Email rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca
Visit www.integritycounts.ca/org/rockvillemd
For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU ... The Mayor and Council and members of the city's senior staff showcased the City of Rockville for county elected officials during a meet-and-greet, Jan. 21 at Glenview Mansion. The event, which sought to foster collaboration between the city and Montgomery County, highlighted areas of mutual interest to the city and county. That includes land use and transportation, the environment, Vision Zero, housing, and economic development. The event included networking and exhibits from the city's departments of public works; recreation and parks; police; community planning; and housing and community development; as well as from the city's new Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Division; Rockville Economic Development, Inc.; and Rockville Housing Enterprises. Find a recap of the event this month on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, and at [youtube.com/c/cityofrockville](https://www.youtube.com/c/cityofrockville).



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.

Green Tips to Know When Removing Snow

Follow these tips to keep your sidewalks and driveway snow- and ice-free, while minimizing the environmental impact:

Shovel Early, Shovel Often

Deicers work best for melting thin layers of snow or ice. So, shovel first before snow hardens into ice, break up any ice patches you can and then add the salt.

Use Salt Sparingly

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

Buy Early and Check Labels

Buy before a storm forecast and avoid empty shelves in the stores. Check the label: Although slightly more expensive, calcium chloride (CaCl₂) requires less salt, works at lower temperatures and does not contain cyanide, unlike sodium chloride (NaCl, also known as rock salt). Urea is sometimes promoted as lawn-friendly fertilizer. However, the application rate for urea is far greater than the amount your lawn needs and can wind up polluting streams as runoff.

Avoid Kitty Litter and Ashes

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

Volunteer to Shovel Snow for an Elderly Neighbor

Each winter, the Rockville Senior Center looks for ways to help older 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 jjones@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.

For more information about Rockville Senior Services, call 240-314-8800 or email seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov.

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

Be an Energy Star and Go Electric on Your Next Vehicle Buy Energy-Saving Products Feb. 18-20 and Search for EV Incentives

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. 18-20, 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 www.marylandtaxes.gov and searching "Shop Maryland Energy."

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.

Thinking of purchasing an electric vehicle? The Montgomery County EV Purchasing Co-op works with local dealerships to highlight incentives and discounts to save customers money when purchasing or leasing a new or used electric vehicle. For more information and quick links to dealership incentives, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/zev/ev-dealership-incentives.html.

Many of these opportunities can be combined with rebates and tax credits offered through the federal Inflation Reduction Act. Tax credits will apply to purchases made on or after Jan. 1, 2023. Rebate details are still being determined. Find updates and more information about the increased federal aid for energy-efficiency upgrades, appliances, solar and electric vehicles at opc.maryland.gov/Consumer-Learning/Inflation-Reduction-Act.

To mark Earth Month, the city will waive fees for permits during April for solar panel installations, electric vehicle charging stations and geothermal-related permits. Find more details in the March issue of "Rockville Reports." ✚

Environmental Excellence Award Nominations Needed for Earth Month Honors

*Nominate a Neighbor or Organization
by Friday, Feb. 17*

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. 17 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 240-314-8870. ✚

K-9 Bolo Training

continued from pg. 2...

"We are proud to have dedicated professionals like Cpl. Zeighani and K-9 Bolo on the front lines, working tirelessly to protect and make our community safe and resilient," Brito said. "The completion of explosive detection school is a major accomplishment that will have a lasting impact on public safety in the City of Rockville."



Learn more about K-9 Bolo and Cpl. Zeighani this month on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, and on the city's YouTube channel at youtube.com/cityofrockville. ✚



FLUSH QUARTERBACKS, NOT TRASH ...

Defense wins championships. A good defense in football will flush a quarterback from the pocket. And a good defense against costly clogs and sewer backups means never flushing trash down your toilet. Flushing dental floss, sanitary napkins, tampons, hair, kitty litter, and even "flushable" wipes can cause costly clogs and sewer backups. Be sure your toilet bowl is a super bowl. Protect your pipes and make sure trash ends up where it belongs — in your trash can. Because no one wants a backup at quarterback — or in their pipes — on gameday. Learn more about Rockville's flushing problem at <https://rockvillemd.gov/Toilets-Arent-Trash-Cans>.

Attention Dog Owners



**Your dog did his duty,
please do yours.**

Clean up after your dog.



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

Walk Safely! Tips for Sharing Rockville's Roads

Rockville is a great place to get around by all modes of transportation. People may drive to a park, bike to work, or walk or roll to a store.

Traffic safety is a shared responsibility. Just like drivers, people walking, rolling, and bicycling need to do their part to make traveling safer for everyone. Here are a few tips to keep in mind when walking or rolling:

Cross the street at an intersection or at a marked crosswalk.

When crossing the street where a motorist is waiting to make a right turn, **do not assume the motorist sees you.** While motorists must yield to people in crosswalks, in many cases they are looking for oncoming

motor vehicle traffic from the other direction.

- **Walk** — don't run — across the street.
- **Always stop at the curb** and look left, right and left again, before crossing the street.
- **Use the sidewalk** whenever possible.

When walking or rolling on a shared-use path, **stay to the right.** This leaves space for joggers, bicyclists or other trail users to pass safely. It's OK to walk or roll side-by-side with friends and family, but be sure not to block the entire pathway.

Find more tips for safe driving, biking and walking under "Resources" at www.rockvillemd.gov/visionzero. ❄️



There is hope.



If you or someone you know needs support now, call or text **988** or chat **988lifeline.org**

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE



Winterize and Prevent Frozen Pipes

Freezing temperatures can lead to frozen pipes or meters, leaving homes without running water or burst pipes that cause costly damage to homes and infrastructure. To prevent frozen pipes:

- When freezing weather is forecast, turn off inside valves that control the water supply to outside hose attachments (known as bibs). Open the outside hose bibs to allow any water in the line to drain out. Keep the valve open. Remove and drain garden hoses and drain in-ground irrigation systems.
 - Eliminate sources of cold air near pipes. Close off crawl spaces, seal drafty windows and doors, and insulate walls and attics.
 - Use insulation, pipe sleeves or newspaper to wrap pipes that are exposed to cold air.
 - During extended absences, set the thermostat to at least 55 degrees, or shut off the main water valve.
 - In severe cold, keep water moving through pipes. Turn on the faucet farthest from your main valve to a very small, steady trickle.
- If pipes freeze:
- Shut off the water immediately at the main shut-off valve.
 - Warm air around the pipes using a hair dryer. Do not use a kerosene heater, blow torch or open flame.

- Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn water back on. Check all joints for leaks and other areas for cracks that may have resulted from the freeze.

More Tips

- Find tips for safely shutting off water and other utilities in your home at www.ready.gov/safety-skills.
- The Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service provides tips for preventing frozen fire sprinkler pipes at ht.ly/H4KSE.
- Freezing water can cause rain barrels to crack or deform. When freezing temperatures are forecast, store barrels in a garage or shed, or disconnect the barrel and divert water to the ground using a downspout.
- Learn more at www.protectyourpipes.org/frozen-pipes and www.rockvillemd.gov/water.

Property owners are responsible for calling a plumber to repair frozen and broken pipes on their property and inside their buildings. If you suspect your meter might be frozen and you pay water bills to the City of Rockville, call 240-314-8567 to schedule a service call. If the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission provides water for your property, call 301-206-4002. ❄️



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

Call 988 if You Need a Lifeline

Overwhelmed with thoughts of self-harm and in distress? Call 988.

988 offers 24/7 access to trained crisis counselors who can help people experiencing mental health-related distress. That could be:

- Thoughts of suicide.
- Mental-health or substance-use crisis.
- Any other kind of emotional distress.

The 988 Lifeline is

a national network of more than 200 local, independent crisis centers equipped to help people in mental health-related distress or experiencing a suicidal crisis, via call, chat or text. The 988 Lifeline provides free and confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the U.S.

The 988 dialing code operates through what

was formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Congress designated 988 in 2020 and the Lifeline transitioned to the three-digit number in July 2022. As part of the federal government's commitment to addressing the mental-health crisis in America, unprecedented federal resources have been invested to scale up crisis centers in

support of 988.

"988 is more than a number, it is a message: We're there for you. Through this and other actions, we are treating mental health as a priority and putting crisis care in reach for more Americans," U.S. Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra said.

For more information about 988 and its services, visit 988lifeline.org. ❄️



Your bank is part of the National Bank On Movement!

Connecting individuals to safe and affordable checking accounts available in our community



Bank On Rockville Helps Low-Income Residents Better Control Their Finances

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

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

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

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

Performers Wanted for Annual International Night Cultural Celebration

International Night will return Friday, March 17 after a two-year pandemic hiatus for a free evening of multicultural fun and entertainment — and we're searching for performers for the evening.

Performers interested in showcasing their skills, and celebrating and showing their cultural talent, are invited to take part in this year's event at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

From 6-9 p.m., International Night will showcase dance performances and traditional clothing displays, with an opportunity for attendees to sample unique and traditional foods from around the world, engage with and learn the customs of people from different countries, and discover our community's different cultures.

To apply to perform, contact yyeboah@rockvillemd.gov.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/internationalnight. The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre is located at 603 Edmonston Drive.

Mayor and Council Hear Outdoor Pool Renovation Plans

Plans to renovate and upgrade the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center's popular but aging outdoor recreation pool were brought to the Mayor and Council in late January.

Renovation to the more than 30-year-old pool will include innovations to enhance visitors' enjoyment and swim experience.

The recreation pool has been a feature of the facility since its construction in 1991, when it was built within the shell of the original 1968 outdoor pool. A 2015 audit identified the need for major renovations to improve safety and maintenance, and updated codes and developments in industry standards for recreational pool amenities.

The process to upgrade the pool have been underway since July, with a consultant conducting an analysis of the site, a survey, outreach to the community, listening sessions and other public engagement. Seventy-one percent of online survey respondents reported they use the outdoor recreation pool multiple times each season. However, overcrowding, lack of shade, unattractiveness and long lines for the water slide were identified as barriers to use.

Subscribe to the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center newsletter at www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenteralerts for updates. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter and select the TV icon next to the Jan. 23 meeting to view the presentation.



MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ... Now on Rockville 11's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/cityofrockville): Relive "Boldly Imagining Our Future" with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration (and read about the MLK awards on page 1 and day of service on page 8; learn how to get free radon tests; and a new way Rockville helps low-income individuals and families with the Bank On initiative (find out more about it on this page).

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; co-rec kickball; 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 9.

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.

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

Peerless to Present 'Forging Freedom' and 'Women Who Dared'

Celebrate Black History Month with an exhibit and virtual presentation on the Underground Railroad in Rockville.

"Forging Freedom: Endurance, Escape, and Rockville's Underground Railroad" is an exhibit on the story of Rockville in the era of the Underground Railroad, when slavery cast a shadow over life in this farming town. Learn about the brave fugitives who fled slavery in Rockville, the abolitionist network that helped and the endurance of the enslaved community.

Visit the exhibit in the Red Brick Courthouse, at 29 Courthouse Square, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays (except for Presidents Day, Feb. 20, when it will be closed), Wednesdays and Thursdays. A self-guided walking tour brochure of sites featured in the exhibit is also available. Then, join Peerless on Zoom at noon, Wednesday, Feb. 22 for an online presentation. The event is free, but registration is requested at www.eventbrite.com/e/forging-freedom-endurance-and-escape-on-rockvilles-underground-railroad-tickets-522937007667. On registering, you will receive the link to the Zoom broadcast.

Save the date for Thursday, March 9 as the Glenview Mansion and Peerless Rockville Speaker Series presents "Women Who Dared: Pioneering Rockville Mother and Daughter," at 7 p.m. at Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park.

Hear the inspirational stories of Clara Finley and her daughter Bliss Finley, Rockville residents who did not let the restrictions placed on women by late 19th- and early 20th-century society hold them back. Clara was a divorced mother with a young child who attended medical school and became a pioneering doctor and supporter of women's rights and childhood education. Bliss was prominently featured in society columns as a young woman. As she matured, she used her connections to help organize and inspire working women to stand up for the right to vote.

The program is free but registration is required. Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/women-who-dared-pioneering-rockville-mother-and-daughter-registration-523006014067 or by using course #23559 at www.rockville.md.gov/registration.

For more information about March's event, call Glenview Mansion at 240-314-8660.

Manage Pain, Get Fit, and How Drugs Interact: This Month, at the Senior Center

Stay healthy and informed with free 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.rockville.md.gov/seniorcenter or by calling 240-314-8800. See the "Adults 60+" recreation guide at www.rockvillemd.gov/life for more information.

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

• Medical Management of Chronic Pain: Interventional vs. Non-Interventional

Discuss the options and variances in care of chronic pain, ranging from injection therapeutics, use of physical modalities, integrative medicine methods and minimally invasive surgeries. Presented by Dr. Mehrdad Michael Massumi of Massumi Associates, Pain Management and Rehabilitation.

Register with course #24950. 1-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1. Free. Virtual.

• Exercise and Physical Activity: Part of Aging

Learn how exercise and physical activity can help you stay healthy as you age. Presented by Dr. Carlos Martinez, director

of CAM Physical Therapy.

Register with course #24964. Wednesday, Feb. 8. Hybrid.

• What Is Immunotherapy for Cancer Treatment?

Learn the differences between chemotherapy, targeted therapy and immunotherapy in the treatment of cancer. Presented by Dr. Mark Goldstein, an oncologist and hematologist.

Register with course #24951. Wednesday, Feb. 15. Hybrid.

• Better Breather's Club

Facilitated by an American Lung Association instructor, the club meets monthly and features educational presentations about better breathing and lung issues.

Register with course #24075. Thursday, Feb. 16. In person at the senior center.

• Drug Interactions: What You Should Know

Many interactions can take place with medication. Be aware of interactions to avoid drug toxicity and other side effects, or worsening of a condition. Join Suburban Hospital Pharmacy residents to learn about common drug interactions and what you need to know for optimal health and safety.

Register with course #24970. Thursday, Feb. 23. Free. Virtual. ✚

This Month and Next at the F. Scott and Glenview Mansion

Victorian Lyric Opera Company presents "The New Moon"

8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays from Feb. 24-March 5.

Revolution, romance, mutiny and betrayal are woven throughout this classic 1928 operetta, set in 18th-century New Orleans.

Robert, a French aristocrat and revolutionary flees France and settles in New Orleans by selling himself into servitude to a wealthy landowner. He falls in love with the owner's beautiful daughter, Marianne, but due to his circumstances cannot tell her who he really is. Hunted by a French detective, Robert is eventually captured and put aboard a ship, The New Moon, to be returned to France. Things take a turn when a mutiny occurs onboard and the ship's entire party, including Robert and Marianne, are made to start life anew on a remote island.

Tickets are \$28; \$26 for seniors; \$24 for students.

Season tickets and group prices are available; call the box office at 240-314-8690 for more information.

Rockville Little Theatre presents "Pride@ Prejudice"

8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3 and Saturday, Feb. 4; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5.

This adaptation of Jane Austen's classic romance features five actors playing more than 30 roles, adding voices including bloggers, commentators, scholars, even Jane Austen herself, to the beloved Austen characters.

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

Rockville Concert Band presents "A Night at the Theater"

3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12.

Featuring music from movies and Broadway musicals, conducted by music director Juan Gallastegui,

with guest conductor Robert Tennyson.

No tickets are required, but a \$5 donation is suggested. For more information, visit rockvilleconcertband.org.

Rockville Swing Band presents "Swing! Swing! Swing!"

7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12.

Conducted by Josh Frayer.

No tickets are required, but a \$5 donation is suggested.

Glenview Mansion Art Gallery to exhibit the Washington Water Color Association

Meet the artists at a free event from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26. Visit washingtonwatercolor.com for more information about the association.

The exhibit will be on display Feb. 26-Friday, March 24.

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 Civic Ballet presents "Lancelot"

2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 25; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 26.

One kingdom's tale of knights, adventure and love, directed by Eleanor Simpson and Erin Kwong.

Tickets cost \$17; \$13 for children 12 and younger; \$13 for seniors 60 and older. Group rates: \$16.50 for seven or more adult tickets; \$12.50 for 10 or more children/senior tickets.

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

Your Adventure Awaits with Rockville's 2023 Summer Camps



Registration opens 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15 at www.rockville.md.gov/registration

www.rockvillemd.gov/life

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
Rockville Celebrates Black History Month
Find details on page 8.



WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING THIS MONTH? ... Don't forget that Valentine's Day is Tuesday, Feb. 14 (you can't say we didn't give you a heads-up)! Also, American Heart Month, Black History Month, National Bird-Feeding Month and National Children's Dental Health Month are some of the celebrations marked in February, which, remember, hath 28 days, according to the old reminder.

February CALENDAR

FACILITIES LEGEND:

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

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

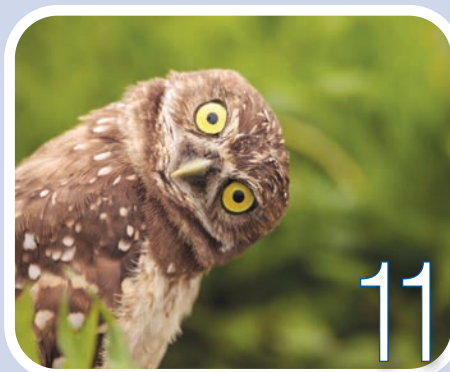
- V** Virtual Program/Offering
- F** Facebook Live Event



5



10



11



23

1 CRITTERS AND COFFEE AT NATURE CENTER Enjoy coffee, a wildlife discussion and a short walk with staff at the Croydon Creek Nature Center. Learn about what's living in our backyards. Trip includes coffee and doughnuts and transportation by senior center bus. \$10 M/\$12 NM. Register with course #24945. 9:30 a.m.-noon. **SR**

1 MEDICAL MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC PAIN: INTERVENTIONAL VS. NON-INTERVENTIONAL See article on page 6. 1-2:30 p.m.

1 HARLEM RENAISSANCE Travel back in time to bustling New York City and discover art, literature and music being produced by African Americans living in Harlem during the 1920s. Be introduced to artists such as Romare Bearden, Jacob Lawrence and photographer James Van Der Zee, as well as the poetry of Langston Hughes. Presented by the Cleveland Museum of Art. Register with course #24914. \$6 M/\$9 NM. 2-3 p.m. **SR**

2,25 LITTLE EXPLORERS Take time with your little one to go exploring with a naturalist. Hiking, games and hands-on learning are all part of the fun! Registration required with course #25334. \$8 R/\$10 NR. Ages 2-5. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

3 GO RED FOR WOMEN Celebrate Go Red for Women Day, a campaign of the American Heart Association designed to increase women's heart-health awareness. Wear red and join Collingswood Rehab and Health Care Center's Medical Director of Cardiology Dr. Michael Chen as he discusses what's new in cardiac care. Register with course #24959. Free. 10-11:30 a.m. **SR**

3,4,5 ROCKVILLE LITTLE THEATRE PRESENTS "PRIDE@PREJUDICE" See the article on page 6. **FSF**

5 FAMILIES OUTSIDE: FULL MOON HIKE Learn about the wonders of the full moon on this family-friendly hike. Children must be accompanied by an adult and all participants must register. Ages 3 and older. \$5 R/\$6 NR. 5:30-6:30 p.m. **CC**

6 V BLACK HOMESTEADERS ON THE GREAT PLAINS: LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS Learn from a park ranger how Black Americans gained life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness through homesteading. Register with course #24913. \$6 R/\$9 NR. 1-2 p.m.

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

8 EXERCISE AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY: PART OF AGING See article on page 6. Hybrid event. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

10 ALL ABOUT AMPHIBIANS It's early but some amphibians are already on the move. We'll delve into all things amphibian from what they were doing all winter long to their busy lives in the spring and why all those spring mud puddles are important for the survival of many amphibians. Register with course #24957. Free R/\$4 NR. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

10 NATURE AFTER DARK Love is in the air! Grab a date and join us to celebrate Valentine's Day by learning about the birds and bees of the animal kingdom. From casual fly-bys to mating for life, animals have developed intriguing and sometimes weird mating rituals. Enjoy snacks and

drinks while looking at dating, mating and procreating in the animal world. Weather permitting, this program will take place around the campfire. Ages 18 and older. Registration required with course #25384. \$12 R/\$15 NR. 6:30-8 p.m. **CC**

11 ANNUAL LANTERN FESTIVAL See article on page 2. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. **FSF**

11 SUPERB OWL SATURDAY Before cheering for your favorite team, why not give a hoot for some superb owls? Learn all about these perfectly adapted nighttime predators, get up close and personal with our owl ambassador, Cricket, and dissect an owl pellet. Registration required with course #25353. Ages 6-12. \$7 R/\$9 NR. 1-2 p.m. **CC**

12 ROCKVILLE CONCERT BAND PRESENTS "A NIGHT AT THE THEATER" See article on page 6. 3-4 p.m. **FSF**

12 ROCKVILLE SWING BAND PRESENTS "SWING! SWING! SWING!" See article on page 6. 7:30-8:30 p.m. **FSF**

15 WHAT IS IMMUNOTHERAPY FOR CANCER TREATMENT? See article on page 6. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

17 TEEN LOCK-IN EVENT A night of fun at the Thomas Farm Community Center! After-hours event will include bubble soccer, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, trivia, karaoke, video games and more! The community center will be closed to the public for this three-hour event. Register with course #25548. \$25 R/\$30 NR. 7:30-10:30 p.m. **TF**

18 FAMILY CAMPFIRE: CONSERVATION CONNECTIONS Gather around the campfire with your friends for stories, snacks and more. An adult must accompany children and all participants must register with course #25343. \$6 R/\$7 NR. Ages 5 and older. 6-7 p.m. **CC**

20 CITY HALL CLOSED FOR PRESIDENTS DAY See article on page 1.

23 DRUG INTERACTIONS: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW See article on page 6. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

24-28 VICTORIAN LYRIC OPERA COMPANY PRESENTS "THE NEW MOON" See article on page 6. **FSF**

26 NATURE GAME DAY Enjoy a winter's day by trying out some family-friendly, nature-themed tabletop games and puzzles. Naturalist "game masters" will be on hand to help explain the rules. We provide a variety of games suited for ages 5 and up. Children younger than 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Hot cocoa and light snacks provided. All participants must register with course #25351. \$4 R/\$5 NR. 2-4 p.m.

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

28 F BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONVERSATION Live on Facebook and YouTube. See article on page 8. 6 p.m.

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

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

Equity Advisor Makes Report

continued from pg. 3...

election, roundtable forums, staff training and dialog.

Davis has also created an internal committee of "equity champions" from city staff, completed a social-justice fellowship with the Memorial Foundation, and become liaison to the Human Rights Commission and Asian Pacific American Task Force.

"We must be cognizant that this work must be fluid, because times change and we must be adaptable to move with these changes," he told the Mayor and Council.

To see Davis' presentation to the Mayor and Council, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter and click the TV icon next to the Jan. 9 meeting. Learn more about Davis at RockvilleReports.com. Search for "Tyree Davis." ❖

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Recap

continued from pg. 1...

system.

Rockville High School student Helen Mesfin was recognized for her work as president of the school's Minority Scholars Program, which started a conversation and initiative on antiracism.

The 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, was awarded to Living Independently for Everyone, Inc. LIFE, Inc. is a nonprofit that provides programs and services for people with disabilities to live self-sufficiently and interdependently through empowerment, access to cultural diversity in the arts, and employment. ❖

Sanitation and Recycling Workers Wanted

Join a great team with long-term career potential!



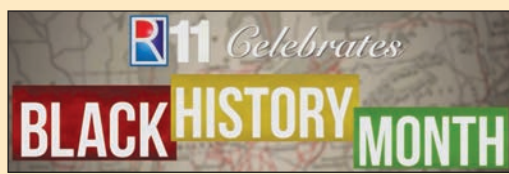
Starting pay: \$23.94/hour + \$5,000 recruitment and retention incentive.

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



City of
Rockville
Get Into It

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



Black History in Our City

Rockville celebrates Black History Month in February and encourages community members to explore our city's rich African American heritage.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/history to find the city's African-American Heritage Walking Tour story map. The map, developed by the city's Department of Community Planning and Development Services, runs 2 miles and includes 18 locations in and around Rockville Town Center highlighting people and places important to the city's Black history from the 18th through 20th-century.

Rockville 11's YouTube channel offers a playlist highlighting activists, pioneers, places, city leaders, Black history facts and community members who remind us of the many contributions made by African Americans to Rockville and our country. Find it at bit.ly/RkvBHMPPlaylist.

To cap off Black History Month, Deputy City Manager Barack Matite and Tyree Davis IV, Rockville's advisor to the city manager for justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, will join Katherine Kirk-Dantzler, Rockville's director of communication, for a conversation at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28 live on YouTube and the city's Facebook page.

Winter Travel Tips to Drive Safely

February can bring some of the snowiest, iciest conditions to Rockville. Drive safely with these tips:

Keep your vehicle well-maintained for the winter driving season: Check to see that the brakes, heating/cooling system, electrical system, engine, exhaust, tires, oil, lights, defrosters and wipers are working properly. Consider installing winter or snow tires with deep treads to help keep traction.

Equip vehicles with an emergency kit: Kits should include blankets, flashlights, extra clothes, a shovel, tow chain, matches, traction aids, flares, jumper cables, nonperishable snacks and water.

While driving during winter weather:

- Always drive with your lights on and wear your seatbelt.
- Increase your following distance. Don't slam on the brakes.
- Brake before curves. Turn the steering wheel slowly and smoothly to maintain control.

New Speed Cameras Coming to Veirs Mill Road

In a continuing effort to reduce the number of speeding vehicles in Rockville neighborhoods, the Rockville City Police Department will begin deployment this month of speed monitoring systems in the 900 block of Veirs Mill Road, near the intersection with Gail Avenue.

The system will use portable cameras to monitor both eastbound and westbound traffic beginning on or about Feb. 1. While the system will be fully functional, citations will not be issued during February. Beginning March 1, citations will be issued for vehicles exceeding the posted speed limit by 12 mph or more.

For more information, contact Socrates Yiallourous, RCPD's photo/parking enforcement supervisor, at 240-314-8373 or syiallourous@rockvillemd.gov.



Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

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

Rockville's Generosity Lights Up Holidays for Community's Most in Need

Rockville's community warmth and holiday spirit were on display during the 2022 Holiday Drive, with 223 donors donating \$40,829 in cash to families and people in need throughout November and December.

This was the first year the Holiday Drive returned to food and toy donations since the COVID-19 pandemic began. In-kind, or non-monetary, donations totaled \$42,500.

More than 700 hours were poured into supporting the drive by 300-plus volunteers.

Hundreds of families were helped during the two-month campaign. In November, 616 families and seniors, a total of 2,119 people, were helped with the Holiday Drive's distribution of food.

Families and seniors in need were provided with \$15 grocery store gift card, a box of nonperishable food, a bag of produce, a baguette and a pie, via an in-person drive-thru pickup at Elwood Smith Community Center or home delivery.

In December, 1,102 children from 441 families were served through the Holiday Drive Toy Shop. Each child aged up to 11 received toys and books, as well as a board game for the family. Each teenager aged 12-17 received a \$25 Target gift card and books.

To find out more about Rockville's annual Holiday Drive and make tax-deductible donations year round, visit www.rockvillemd.com/holidaydrive.

Distinguished Donors

Armstrong, Donohue, Ceppos, Vaughn, & Rhoades; Rene and Sabine Aubourg; Councilmember Monique Ashton; Stephanie Beckett; Lee and Diane Brantover; Burke Legal;

Sharon Collins; Richard Duffield; Forrester Construction Company; Charles Hausheer; Stephen Houff; Nikol Jackson; Christopher Kern; Howard and Joanne Lewis; Evonne Ludema; Jerri D. Melnick; James Magno; Nathalia Morgenstern; O'Donnell's Market; Bridget Pinkney; Terry G. Pinkston; Susan Reinsch; Erica A. Shingara; Snowden Funeral Home; Tom and Ann Staal; Kristina Sullivan; United Bank; Caryl McNeilly and Robert Williamson; Tin-Lup Wong; Woodmont Country Club; Daavi Zain.

Distinguished Donors (In-Kind)

Rockville City Police Department; City of Rockville Department of Public Works; City of Rockville Department of Recreation and Parks; Club Pilates North Bethesda; The Emmes Corporation; Even Hotels; FBB Partners; ISS Corporate Solutions; Montgomery College Social and Volunteering Club; Mountain Valley Orchard; Rockville Presbyterian Church; ServPro of Rockville; Westat.

Distinguished Individual Major Donors

Kaye A. Craft; Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and Frederick W. Newton; Carl Peterson; Nancy Taylor; Antoinette Vinck; Sandra Yerkes.

Distinguished In-Kind Major Donors

CAS Associates; Faith United Methodist Church; Julius West Middle School Student Government Association; Robert Frost Middle School; Lauren Lehman; Rockville Church of Christ; St. Mary's Catholic Church; St. Mary's School; Shady Grove Medical Center; White Flint Children's House. ✚



'EVERYONE CAN BE GREAT BECAUSE EVERYONE CAN SERVE' ... Volunteers, pictured above, met Jan. 21 to help pack 10,000 meals with Rise Against Hunger, a global effort to end hunger. The meal packing was one of several city-sponsored service activities on and around the holiday honoring Martin Luther King Jr., who famously summed up the importance of service with the quote above.

The city's Weed Warriors gathered 28 volunteers to remove litter and non-native invasive plants at Dawson Farm Park. Other activities included partnering with Project Linus to make more than 100 blankets for sick children, a trail cleanup at Hayes Forest Preserve, and creating 60 winter kits for unsheltered individuals. Find a recap of the celebration on page 1.

Meet a Rockville Employee: Katie Gerbes

Katie Gerbes, one of the newest members of Rockville's Department of Community Planning and Development Services, started with the city in September. We asked her a few questions to introduce her to the community.



Katie Gerbes

What did you do before joining the city?

Immediately prior to starting with Rockville, I worked as the manager of university projects for Margrave Strategies. In that role, I provided urban planning, economic development and placemaking strategy guidance to anchor institutions, primarily universities, throughout Maryland. Before that, I worked in local government planning as the city planner for Hyattsville, Maryland.

What does your position entail and is there anything specific you'd like to tell us about it?

As the comprehensive

planning manager, I oversee Rockville's long-range planning efforts. This includes implementation of the recently approved Rockville 2040 Comprehensive

Plan, as well as our neighborhood plans. We are preparing to update the Town Center Master Plan, so keep your eyes peeled for opportunities to get involved. I also oversee our historic preservation program and activities of the Historic District Commission.

Is there something else we should know about you or something that we should be asking about but haven't?

I'm really looking forward to getting to know the Rockville community and building relationships with its diverse group of residents.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/cpds to find out more about CPDS. ✚



Get Into It

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

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

Web and Digital Manager: Nick Kanary
Graphics and Printing: Sylvia England, Eric Ferrell, Lori Russler
Rockville 11: Hagop Balekjian, Craig Buchanan, Adrian Zlotescu
Social Media and Digital Engagement: Becca Brown



BACK IN THE DAY ... Ten years ago this month, Rockville City Police Department K-9 Rocko retired after a meritorious seven years on the beat, according to February 2013's "Rockville Reports," with K-9 officer Recon on deck to take on the mantle. You can read about the accomplishments of today's K-9 officer Bolo on page 2.