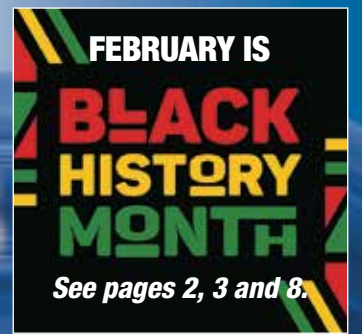




RockvilleReports

FEBRUARY 2025 • VOL. 70 #2



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Local Love on Display in City's Community Survey

Ninety percent of Rockville residents feel the city's quality of life is good or excellent, and that their neighborhoods and the city are a great place to live and raise children. The city also scored highly for how it treats its diverse residents. Nine in 10 residents commended the overall quality of services and the same amount said they would recommend living in Rockville.

These are just some of the community's thoughts revealed by the City of Rockville 2024 Resident Survey, which was presented to the Mayor and Council at their Jan. 13 meeting. The scores help identify areas where the city can improve service to its residents and also plan for the future. Normally conducted every two years, this is the first survey since 2018, due to the pandemic. The survey will now return to its biennial schedule.

According to survey results, Rockville's highest-rated characteristics were the overall quality of the natural environment, parks and recreation opportunities, the city's image or reputation, utility infrastructure, a feeling of safety, overall health and wellness, transportation system, and overall opportunities for education.

Other top-rated services, considered excellent or good by more than 85% of respondents,

included playgrounds, services for youth, fire prevention and education, Rockville-provided water and sewer services, athletic fields, and trash collection services.

Virtually all respondents feel very or somewhat safe in their neighborhood and commercial areas in Rockville during the day. Compared to 2018's survey, feelings of safety in 2024 were higher for paths and trails, parks and playgrounds, and in neighborhoods.

About eight in 10 respondents rated the overall quality and variety of business and service establishments in Rockville as excellent or good, and the same amount said the city is an excellent or good place to work.

All dimensions regarding public trust received at least 60% favorable ratings, with the top-rated aspects being treating residents with respect (81%), treating residents fairly (78%) and the responsiveness of city staff (75%).

The survey was sent to 3,000 randomly selected households within the city. In total, 476 completed surveys were returned. The survey has a 5% margin of error.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/survey to see the 2018 survey and results of the 2024 survey. ❖

CITY OF ROCKVILLE AND THE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN TASK FORCE
PRESENT THE
LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION
SATURDAY, FEB. 1
3-5:30 P.M.
PERFORMANCES FROM 3:30-4:45 P.M.
ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
2100 BALTIMORE ROAD
ROCKVILLE, MD 20850
CULTURAL PERFORMANCES • CRAFTS
INTERACTIVE DISPLAYS • SNACK BOXES
SCAN FOR MORE INFO OR VISIT
ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/LUNARNEWYEAR
YEAR OF THE SNAKE

Rockville's Lunar New Year Celebration is Feb. 1

Celebrate Rockville's Asian cultures at the city's Lunar New Year celebration.

The annual celebration will be held from 3-5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1, at Rockville High School, 2100 Baltimore Road. Multicultural performances will be presented from 3:30-4:45 p.m. The celebration will also include interactive displays, crafts for kids and to-go snack boxes, while supplies last. Admission is free.

In its 17th year, the Lunar

New Year celebration is a source of pride for the city's Asian community and an educational opportunity for neighbors to learn about Asian culture. The city is organizing the celebration in partnership with Rockville's Asian Pacific American Task Force. The celebration will mark the Year of the Snake on the Chinese Zodiac calendar.

Learn more about the celebration at www.rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear. ❖

Presidents Day Brings Closures in Rockville

City government, including City Hall and most city facilities will be closed on Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 17.

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will be open for regular hours on Feb. 17. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter for details.

All other city facilities will be closed, including Rockville City Police Department administrative offices; 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. The Rockville Skate Park is always closed Mondays during the winter.

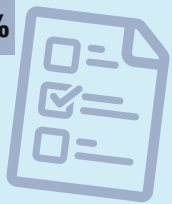
Recycling, trash and yard waste normally collected on Mondays will occur one day later than usual throughout the week. For more information on recycling and trash collection, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash or call 240-314-8568.

Parking will be free at city-owned meters on Feb. 17.

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

Aspects of Quality of Life in Rockville (Totals Responses that were Rated "Good" or "Excellent")

Rockville as a place to live:	93%
Your neighborhood as a place to live:	91%
The overall quality of life in Rockville:	88%
Rockville as a place to raise children:	87%
Rockville as a place to work:	80%
Rockville as a place to visit:	60%
Rockville as a place to retire:	55%



In This Issue...

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- 3 'If I Were Mayor' Essay Contest
- 5 Art Projects on Deck
- 8 Holiday Drive Update

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

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Black History in Multimedia This Month in Rockville

Rockville celebrates Black History Month in February with a spotlight on Black history in our community and our city government.

Black History Month was founded in 1926 by historian and author Carter G. Woodson of what is now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. This year's Black History Month theme is "African Americans and Labor." The theme highlights "the various and profound ways that work and working of all kinds – free and unfree, skilled, and unskilled, vocational and voluntary – intersect with the collective experiences of Black people," states the ASALH website. Learn more at asalh.org/black-history-themes.

In keeping with the theme, the city's Department of Communications and Community Engagement will introduce a new podcast, with its debut series, "Conversations in Black," premiering in February, and will highlight Black members of the Mayor and Council on social media. Find the podcast on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

Rockville 11 will debut a video detailing the creation of a new mural on the playground-facing wall of the Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Ave. The vibrant mural features residents of all ages dancing, playing and moving together, alongside Maryland and Lincoln Park history, and welcoming words in multiple languages.

Created by D.C.-based artist Rose Jaffe with help from children from the community, the mural was funded by a \$30,000 Maryland State Arts Council grant. VisArts led the project with the City of Rockville and residents of Lincoln Park, one of Maryland's first real estate developments for Black families.

Find the video this month on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, and at www.youtube.com/cityofrockville.

Rockville Renews Lead Service Line Inventory Effort

Rockville is continuing its efforts to identify the materials used in customers' drinking water service lines.

In November, a survey was mailed to nearly 8,300 customers with unknown service line materials, requesting their assistance in identifying and reporting the material of their service lines.

A second survey will go out in early spring with the goal of reducing the number of unknown service line materials. This information is crucial for complying with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Copper Regulations, which requires water utilities to inventory all service lines. No lead service lines have been identified within the city's system.

The city encourages our customers to participate in this important survey. Learn more about the service line inventory survey at www.rockvillemd.gov/LCRR.

Customers can also email LCRR@rockvillemd.gov or call the city's Department of Public Works at 240-314-8500 for more information.

Community's Ideas Sought for Future of King Farm Farmstead

Rockville will be reaching out to its community to determine the future for King Farm Farmstead Park, a 7-acre, historic former farmstead at 1101 Grand Champion Drive.

The farmstead comprises eight buildings at the northern edge of the King Farm neighborhood, including the main residence, horse and dairy barns, and outbuildings. The site was designated as a historic district in 2006 and is part of the city's park system.

Several community en-

gagement opportunities are planned and a survey will seek public input at engagerockville.com/kingfarm, a site that will also act as a hub for the community to learn about the project and register for updates.

The community visioning meetings have been scheduled for: Wednesday, March 5, in person at Saddle Ridge Community Center, 300 Saddle Ridge Circle; Tuesday, March 25, in person at Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Drive;



Thursday, April 10, in person at Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway; and Tuesday, April 22, virtually.

All meetings will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

"This is an opportunity for the community to play an active role in shaping one of Rockville's historic treasures," said Tara Stewart, director of the city's Department of Recreation and Parks. "We look forward

to hearing from residents and working together to reimagine the King Farm Farmstead as a vibrant, functional space for generations to come."

The farmstead project will draw on more than a decade of input, including task force studies, property assessments and economic analyses. This foundational work will guide discussions as the city collaborates with a consultant to evaluate potential uses for each building on the property.

Public input will guide the Mayor and Council's decision on the property's master plan.

Learn more about the project at engagerockville.com/kingfarm. ❄️

Survey Available for Businesses' Opinions on 'Fern Reclamation'

Businesses in Rockville Town Center should check their mailboxes for a questionnaire from the city about "Fern Reclamation," a new mural that adorns the Beall Avenue roadway.

Rockville, in partnership with VisArts, was among 25 North American cities chosen last year from a pool of 200 applicants to receive Asphalt Art Initiative grants through Bloomberg Philanthropies. The \$25,000 grant from the Bloomberg Asphalt Art Initiative was supplemented with \$15,000 funding from Rockville's Art in Public Places program to create the mural directly in the Beall Avenue roadway. The questionnaire is a requirement of receiving the Bloomberg grant.

The mural incorporates

themes of native flora and historical elements, aiming to create a visual narrative that resonates with Rockville's unique story and environment.

This first-of-its-kind project for the city makes Rockville Town Center more attractive for residents, visitors and businesses. It is paired with traffic-calming features and other safety improvements to shorten pedestrian-crossing distances on Beall Avenue, including a new alignment between MD 355/Hungerford Drive and North Washington Street, creating one travel lane in each direction, buffered bicycle lanes and on-street parking and loading spaces.

Learn more about the mural project at bit.ly/RkvAsphaltArt. ❄️



Winter Plumbing Protection: Tips for Preventing Frozen Pipes or Meters

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 ex-

posed 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.

continued on pg. 7...

ROCKVILLE TOWN SQUARE PARKING

2 HOURS
OF FREE
PARKING



NO
VALIDATION
REQUIRED



Get Involved in Your

Community

Join a Rockville Board or Commission!

Rockville 11 highlights how the **Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee** is helping resolve disputes between landlords and tenants.

Search "Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee" at youtube.com/cityofrockville.



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



FOLLOW US! ... ON FACEBOOK: Including the following pages: City of Rockville Government; City of Rockville Recreation and Sports; Rockville City Police Department; Croydon Creek Nature Center; City of Rockville Hometown Holidays Music Fest. **ON INSTAGRAM:** @city_of_rockville, @rockvillerec and @rockvillecity police. **ON X (FORMERLY TWITTER):** @Rockville411 and @RockvilleCityPD. **ONLINE:** RockvilleReports.com.



Mayor & Council
mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov



Mayor Monique Ashton
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mashton@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Kate Fulton
240-314-8293 • kfulton@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Barry Jackson
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Councilmember David Myles
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Councilmember Izola (Zola) Shaw
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Councilmember Marissa Valeri
240-314-8296 • mvaleri@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Adam Van Grack
240-314-8292 • avangrack@rockvillemd.gov

Mayor and Council to Receive Proposed Budget in March

Community Priorities Survey Offers Opportunity for Neighborhood Representation

City Manager Jeff Mihelich is scheduled to present Rockville’s proposed Fiscal Year 2026 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program on Monday, March 17, followed by Mayor and Council public hearings and work sessions in March and April.

The proposed budget will be available beginning Friday, March 7 at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.

Public participation in the budget process is a high priority for the Mayor and Council and city staff. That includes having all parts of the city represented in responses to a survey about community priorities for the city’s budget.

The survey can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget. It is available in English, Spanish and Simplified Chinese and takes 5-10 minutes to complete. Responses provide valuable input to the Mayor and Council for their budget discussions.

Budget work sessions and public hearings are scheduled for Mondays, March 17 and 24. A work session and the close of the public record is scheduled for Monday, April 7.

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

The \$168.3 million budget

for Fiscal Year 2025, which began July 1, keeps the city’s real property tax rate at \$0.292 per \$100 of assessed valuation. 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.

- FY 2026 Budget Calendar**
- Friday, March 7:** Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program available on www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.
 - Monday, March 17:** Introduction of the city manager’s proposed Fiscal Year 2026 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program. Public hearing and work session.
 - Monday, March 24:** Public hearing and work session.
 - Monday, April 7:** Work session and close of budget survey and budget public record.
 - Monday, May 5:** Adoption of the FY 2026 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program.
 - Tuesday, July 1:** FY26 begins.

Note: Budget calendar dates are subject to change. ➕



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.

Fourth Graders: What Would You Do If You Were Mayor?

March 7 is the Deadline for the ‘If I Were Mayor ...’ Essay Contest

Rockville fourth graders have a chance to meet Mayor Monique Ashton 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 “Building Community for a New Generation.” Students are asked to write an essay of no more than 275 words about what they would do, if they were mayor, to make their city, town or community better for the future and how they would make sure that people felt like they were part of the community.

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 late April.

The entry deadline is Friday, March 7. For more information, including contest rules and forms for submitting entries online, visit www.mdmunicipal.org/mayors-essay-contest.

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

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ROCKVILLE CELEBRATES

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The History of the Black College Football Hall of Fame and HBCUs

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 11 a.m.-noon **Virtual**

African American History in Montgomery County

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 10-11 a.m. **Senior Center**

The Incredible Life of John B. Jones

Thursday, Feb. 27, 1-2 p.m. **Virtual**

Next Month:

Glenview-Peerless Rockville Speaker Series

Thurgood Marshall, the NAACP, and a Civil Rights Milestone in Rockville

Thursday, March 13, 7 p.m. **Glenview Mansion**

Register at rockvillemd.gov/register

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

Meetings Schedule:
Monday, Feb. 3, beginning at 5:30 p.m., and Feb. 10 and 24, at 6:30 p.m. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details. A drop-in session from 5:15-6:15 p.m. with Mayor Monique Ashton and Councilmember Kate Fulton will precede the Feb. 10 meeting.

Share comments live during community forum. Sign up by calling the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations at 240-314-8280 by 10 a.m. the day of the meeting. All comments will be acknowledged by the Mayor and Council at the meeting and added to the agenda for public viewing on the website.

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

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

Get Involved with the City

- Send an email** to mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov.
- Testify at a hearing** or in writing to mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov or by mail to Mayor and Council, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- Volunteer** Find ways to give of your time and talents at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.

Boards and Commissions

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may write to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280, or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions.

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

- Feb. 12 and 26** Planning Commission 7 p.m. *(To participate, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.)*

Vacancies

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

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



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.

City Seeks Comments on Rockville's EV Readiness Plan

Rockville's Electric Vehicle Readiness plan is ready for review.

Read the plan, provide comments through Monday, Feb. 3 and learn all about EVs and EV charging at engagerockville.com/evplan.

The plan contains 26 actions in four categories to help support the transition from combustion engine vehicles to electric vehicles for City of Rockville residents, businesses and visitors. It identifies how the city can work with county, state and federal programs toward rapid adoption of electric vehicles, identifying where EV chargers are needed and recommending actions to support equitable charging access amid a growing demand. That includes identifying policy and permitting needs communicating the benefits and incentives available, installing grant-funded public chargers, and converting fleet vehicles.

Learn more about Rockville's recent efforts to expand its charging network at RockvilleReports.com/rockville-charges-ahead-with-new-ev-stations.

Electric vehicles cost less to operate, produce no exhaust, improve air quality and health, and — according to drivers of EVs in the city's fleet — are a delight to operate. The EV plan will also help Rockville achieve the goals of its Climate Action Plan. Learn more about the Climate Action Plan at www.rockvillemd.gov/climate.

Save Money, Be an Energy Star and Go Electric

Buy Energy-Saving Products Feb. 15-17

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

From Saturday, Feb. 15-Monday, Feb. 17, 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 year-round).
- Standard-size refrigerators.
- Dehumidifiers.
- Programmable thermostats.
- LED light bulbs.

Learn more about the tax-free weekend by visiting www.marylandtaxes.gov and searching "Shop Maryland Energy."

Electrify MC

Electrify MC's four-step process can help residents lower the upfront cost of switching to electric appliances like heat pumps, water heaters, stovetops, clothes dryers and more. Start the process by signing up for a free or low-cost home energy assessment at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/electrifymc.

EV Purchasing Co-Op

The Montgomery County EV Purchasing Co-Op works with local auto dealerships to highlight incentives and discounts that 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.

Having trouble paying your utility bills? Energy assistance may be available at bit.ly/utilityassistance.

Go Green When Battling the Freeze
A Mug-Full Will Suffice When You Deice

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. Shovel first before snow hardens into ice, breaking up any icy patches you can. Then add the salt.

Use Salt Sparingly

Scatter deicer, leaving space between the grains. A 12-ounce mug full of salt can treat a 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares. Using more won't speed up melting and can harm soil and water quality.

Buy Early and Check Labels

Buy before a storm forecast to avoid empty shelves at the store. Check the label: While 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 won't melt ice. For traction, a better option is to mix in a small amount of sand and use less salt.

Sweep and Reuse

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

Learn More

Join the Salt Watch Community Science Initiative from 1-2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1 at Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road. Learn about road salt and how to monitor a body of water, or even your tap, for road salt pollution. Learn more and register at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration by selecting the "Croydon Creek Nature Center" tab.

Smart Salt Use by the City of Rockville

The city's Department of Public Works is reducing its salt usage while ensuring safe roads.

One of the primary ways crews do this is by pretreating roads with a liquid salt

continued on pg. 7...

Leave Out the Gas Blowers When Blowing Leaves

A ban on the use of gas-powered leaf blowers and vacuums takes effect Tuesday, July 1 and applies in the City of Rockville.

The ban seeks to address the environmental, noise and health concerns related to gas-powered leaf blowers and leaf vacuums. It aims to reduce harmful air emissions and continued reliance on fossil fuels, and to lessen health impacts that contribute to hearing loss, cardiovascular and respiratory disease, and other

health issues.

A ban on the sale of gas-powered blowers and vacuums took effect last July.

To help residents and businesses comply with the law, a limited number of rebates for purchasing electric leaf blowers will be available. Residents are eligible for one \$100 rebate. Applications for the rebates will open July 1.

Learn more about rebates and about the at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/leafblowers.

Rebates for Sustainable Landscaping

Receive up to \$5,000 in rebates for installing sustainable landscaping



Eligible Practice	Rebate Amount
Conservation Landscaping	\$5 or \$6 per square feet
Rain Gardens	\$10 per square feet
Rain Barrel	\$1 per gallon
Cistern	\$1 per gallon
Pavement Removal	\$3 or \$6 per square feet
Tree Canopy	\$150 per tree
Permeable Paver Retrofits	\$14 per square feet
Green Roof	\$9 per square feet

Find more details and apply at: www.rockvillemd.gov/rainscapes

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS

2025 Environmental Excellence Awards

Nominate a friend, neighbor, organization or business for making a difference to the City of Rockville's environment and sustainability.



Outstanding Individual Environmental Stewardship



Outstanding Achievement in Green Building



Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Practices



Outstanding Environmental Education and Academic Achievement

Nominations must be received by 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/environment/awards for eligibility guidelines and nomination forms.



TREAT YOUR TOILET LIKE AN MVP

TOILETS AREN'T TRASH CANS

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 rockvillemd.gov/Toilets-Arent-Trash-Cans.



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."



Public Art Projects to Brighten Rockville This Spring

Rockville residents will soon see vibrant new public art installations as part of the city's Art in Public Places program. Three exciting projects are set to launch in 2025, each inviting community participation in the design process.



Twinbrook Community Recreation Center Annex Mural

Baltimore-based mural artist LaToya Peoples will bring her creativity to the Twinbrook Community Recreation Center annex with a mural installation planned for this spring.

Residents can preview the design and share their thoughts during a community engagement session from 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5 in the center's multipurpose room at 12920 Twinbrook Parkway.

Peoples will present her vision for the mural, followed by a community discussion.

College Gardens Park Mural

Artist Andy Dahl will create a mural for the exterior of the College Gardens Park

picnic shelter.

The city invites residents to learn about Dahl's design during a presentation from Dahl about the project and an interactive feedback session, from 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, in the Azalea Room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive.

Lincoln Park Public Art Project

The legacy of the Lincoln Park piece, "Memory Walk," will be reimaged with new public artwork, set to be completed in 2025.

The project will begin with a community engagement session during the Lincoln Park Civic Association meeting at 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Ave.

"Memory Walk," originally created by Christine Hoestine in 1995, saw a central component removed in 2024. The new art piece will replace it.

The first engagement activity, the Lincoln Park Postcard Project, will collect residents' stories about why they love Lincoln Park. These stories will inspire the new artwork and be shared with the artist, once selected, to create the piece.

Find out more about the city's public art at www.rockvillemd.gov/aipp. ❄️

Free, Reconditioned Bikes for TERRIFIC Kids Who Do Good Deeds

Rockville has outstanding kids, and every T-E-R-R-I-F-I-C kid needs a bike.

How do you prove you're TERRIFIC? Show us you're Trustworthy, Earnest, Respectful, Responsible, Involved, Fair, Industrious and Caring!

The TERRIFIC challenge gives free bikes to Rockville residents in grades 1-5 who fulfill six good deeds, such as volunteering with a charity, picking up litter in a public place or helping someone who is sick or elderly.

Registration is open. Due

to the limited number of bicycles, participants must preregister for the free program by Friday, Feb. 14.

Selected participants will be emailed information by Friday, March 1 detailing how to track and submit their good deeds.

For questions or more information, call 240-314-8620, or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/terrificbikes.

Do you or someone you know have a bike to donate? Email info@rockvillebikehub.org or visit www.rockvillebikehub.org for more information. ❄️

When Winter Weather Strikes...

1

For closure and snow emergency information turn to the city's website at www.rockvillemd.gov and follow the city on Facebook and X (formerly Twitter). For information about snow emergencies, sign up for Alert Rockville notifications at www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts.

2

3 STEPS TO SNOW SERENITY

STEP 1: Check to be sure your address is within the city limits. Find the Address and Residency Check map at www.rockvillemd.gov/maps.

STEP 2: Removing snow from sidewalks, driveways and entrances is the responsibility of the property and/or business owner or community association. Learn rules about snow removal in Rockville at www.rockvillemd.gov/snowremoval.

STEP 3: Help a neighbor in need. Find opportunities to help shovel snow for seniors and individuals with disabilities who live near you at www.rockvillemd.gov/snowremoval.

3

OH, WOW! HERE COMES THE SNOW PLOW!

Crews treat and plow roads in priority order. **First are primary roads**, including:

- Major arterial roads.
- Emergency routes.
- Central business districts.
- Primary residential roads near schools.

Next are secondary roads, including:

- Remaining neighborhood streets.
- Alleyways.
- Cul-de-sacs.

NUMBERS TO KNOW

Emergency.....	911	Report a Downed Tree... 240-314-8700
Dept. of Public Works...	240-314-8500	Rockville City Hall..... 240-314-5000
Water Main Breaks/		Rockville City Police Department
Sewer Line Overflows ...	240-314-8567	(non-emergency) 240-314-8900
Rec. Programs		Report a Power Outage
Cancellation Line	240-314-5023	or Downed Wire 1-877-737-2662
Rockville Senior Center (operating status updated by 6:15 a.m.) ..	240-314-8800	
Montgomery Co. Hypothermia Alerts		
(report safety concerns for people or pets)	301-279-8000	

International Night

2025

Friday, April 11, 6 p.m.

New location: Montgomery College Rockville Campus, Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/internationalnight

www.rockvillemd.gov
#worldrockville

Volunteer to Shovel Snow for an Elderly Neighbor

City Pairs Helpers with Seniors

Each winter, Rockville looks for ways to help older 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. What better way to celebrate the season of selfless giving?

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/rkvsnowvol.

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.

Vision Zero Projects Make Progress Through Winter

Rockville continues planning Vision Zero projects to create safer travel routes for all.

The projects are part of the city's Vision Zero Action Plan to eliminate traffic-related deaths and serious injuries.

Department of Public Works staff met in December with community members to identify a preferred pedestrian safety improvement at the intersection of Mannakee Street and Smallwood Road. There was consensus to build a pedestrian median refuge at the intersection, which will help calm traffic and make it easier for pedestrians to cross Mannakee Street. The improvement will be built as part of the upcoming roadway resurfacing project.

The city completed the Twinbrook Safe Routes to School and Transit Accessibility Study in December. Funded in part by a federal Transportation Alternatives Program grant, it evaluated eight intersections and seven sidewalk gap segments in the Twinbrook neighborhood. The city has already advanced three sidewalks segments — at Brooke Drive, Crawford Drive and Midway Avenue — to the design stage and will make intersection improvements at Ardennes and Ridgway avenues, Ardennes and Wainwright avenues, and Lemay Road and Ridgway Avenue.

A virtual public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 27 to discuss the Congressional Lane Complete Streets study. Find details with the March 27 calendar listing at www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar. Comments can be submitted at any time to Bryan Barnett-Woods, the city's Vision Zero coordinator, at bbwoods@rockvillemd.gov.

A virtual public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 30 for staff to share three proposed alternatives to add bicycle facilities along East Jefferson Street between Rollins Avenue and Congressional Lane, and along Halpine Road between East Jefferson Street and Rockville Pike (MD 355). Staff will also solicit comments and suggestions from the public and will answer questions. Find details with the April 30 calendar listing at www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar. Comments can be submitted at any time to bbwoods@rockvillemd.gov.

Find the Twinbrook Safe Routes to School and Transit Accessibility Study and more information about these and other Vision Zero projects at www.rockvillemd.gov/visionzeroprojects.

MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ...

Now on Rockville 11's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/cityofrockville): Looking for some fun and adventure for your kids? We'll tell you all about 2025's summer camps (and you can read all about them on page 6); see the Mayor and Council's January proclamations; and revisit Rockville Town Square's menorah lighting celebration.



Register Now for Spring Sports

Looking to connect while competing on the field? The City of Rockville's adult and youth sports leagues are now recruiting for spring play.

Spring leagues available 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 T-ball, coach pitch baseball, soccer, and track and field. The registration deadline is Thursday, March 13. Practices begin at the end of March, with games and track meets beginning in mid-April.

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

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

Peerless Presents Rockville's Historic Lincoln Park and a Civil Rights Milestone

Peerless Rockville marks Black History Month with a look at the history of Rockville's Lincoln Park neighborhood.

Lincoln Park was founded in 1891 and became one of Maryland's first real estate developments for Black families. Join Peerless Rockville and Lincoln Park native Sandra Davis from 7-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20 for "Lincoln Park: Special Places, People, and Stories," an on-line presentation exploring Lincoln Park's history, personalities, sites and buildings. Learn about the enduring strength, neighborly bonds and architectural gems in this historic community.

Register for this Zoom presentation at bit.ly/PeerlessLincolnPark.

In March, the Glenview Mansion and Peerless Rockville Speaker Series presents a look at Rockville's role in school desegregation. In "Thurgood Marshall, the NAACP and a Civil Rights Milestone in Rockville," from 7-8 a.m. Thursday, March 13 at Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, Peerless Rockville volunteer historian Ralph Buglass will explore how a 1936 case in a Rockville courtroom was an early step toward the landmark Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision that overturned school segregation.

The talk will also examine how the case, brought about by a lawsuit by William Gibbs, a teaching principal in Rockville who sued for equal pay for Black teachers, took on national significance and helped lead to a countywide NAACP chapter.

Admission is free, but space is limited. Register using course #32190 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration or bit.ly/PeerlessMarshallNAACP.



LEARN
MORE ON
ROCKVILLE 11

[www.youtube.com/
cityofrockville](https://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville)

Eat Better and Boost Your Brain, This Month at the Senior Center

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

Register with the course number at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration. Learn about 60-plus programs, courses, activities and services at www.rockvillemd.gov/seniorcenter or by calling 240-314-8800.

See the "Adults 60+" recreation guide at www.rockvillemd.gov/life for more information.

Memory Café

The Alzheimer's Association offers a fun and relaxed way for people living with early-stage memory loss to connect with one another. Must contact Laura Byer at 240-844-3608 or lbbyer@alz.org prior to attending.

Register with course #34102. Noon-1:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3. Free.

Foods to Boost Your Brain Power

Learn how your diet impacts brain health and which foods to focus on. Presented by Leah Vicente, a Humana Marketpoint representative.

Register with course #34084. 1-2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12. Free.

Aphasia Support Group

Help for stroke survivors with aphasia, using various activities to enhance conversational abilities.

Register with course #34099. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12. Free.

Better Breather's Club

Provides informative and educational tips for breathing issues. Facilitated by Kerri Donnelly, an American Lung Association instructor.

Register with course #34086. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20. Free.

How to Avoid Fad Diets, Food Hype and Nutrition Misinformation

Sorting nutrition facts from fiction in the age of information overload can be time consuming, overwhelming and contradictory. Learn the top 10 ways to spot red flags of misinformation and source trustworthy, science-based approaches to nourish your health and wellness with this online class. Presented by a licensed registered dietician from Suburban Hospital.

Register with course #34107. 1-2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27. Free. ✚

2025's Camps Promise a Summer of Adventure, Memories

Rockville's 2025 summer camp season is just around the corner — get ready to start planning your adventure!

Find information at www.rockvillemd.gov/life. Give your kids the gift of unforgettable memories and stories that will last a lifetime.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/camps to see the "Summer Camps 2025" guide. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

Summer Blast Camps are back and will feature full-day and extended-day hours at local elementary schools and community centers.

Park Adventure Camps will have full and half-day options and will be held at neighborhood park locations throughout Rockville.

Both camps welcome children ages 5-12 and run from Monday, June 23 until

mid-August.

Summer Blast and Park Adventure camps feature swimming, field trips and a variety of games, crafts, water activities and outdoor playtime. Specialized camps include cooking, drama, STEAM, gymnastics and art, and new sewing and music camps have been added.

Teens interested in earning Student Service Learning hours can work as volunteers or take daily trips with 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.rockvillemd.gov/careers. Camp staff are chosen for their enthusiasm, passion and experience working with children.

Rockville's camps are licensed by Maryland and follow federal, state and local health and safety guidelines. ✚

This Month in Performances and Art: Love, Reflection and Watercolors

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Social Hall is closed for Americans with Disability Act improvements through Monday, Sept. 1.

The box office is operating from the Rockville Civic Center Cottage, selling tickets to offsite performances for the Rockville Little Theatre and the Victorian Lyric Opera Company.

Box office hours are 2-6 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. alternate Saturdays. Friday and Saturday hours are subject to change.

Call ahead or check www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre before planning a visit.

The following productions will be staged at the Kreeger Auditorium at the Bender JCC of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road.

Rockville Little Theatre presents "Kindertransport" 8 p.m. Feb. 1, 7 and 8; 2 p.m. Feb. 2 and 9.

A modern classic, directed by Karen Fleming, about one woman's struggle to come to terms with her past — brutally separated from her German-Jewish parents and brought to England with the promise of a new life. This play examines the life, during World War II and after, of a Kindertransport child. Though fictitious, it's based on real Kindertransport stories.

Tickets are \$22 and \$20 for students and seniors. Due to subject matter and language, "Kindertransport" is recommended for ages 13 and up.

For more info or for tickets, call 240-314-8690 or visit fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/Kindertransport. Group pricing is available. Call the box office for more information.

The Language of Love 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16, Theater Arts Building, Montgomery College, Rockville Campus.

The Rockville Concert Band will explore themes of love from timeless ro-

mance and fiery passion to the general love of humanity — and a celebration of love in all its forms.

Highlights include "Four Dances" from West Side Story by Leonard Bernstein, "Divertimento" by Vincent Persichetti and "Halcyon Hearts" by Katahji Copley.

No tickets required; \$5 suggested donation. Visit rockvilleconcertband.org for more information.

Meet the Artists of "Pathways: A Journey Through Watercolor"

Members of the Takoma Watercolor Group will talk about the "Pathways: A Journey Through Watercolor" exhibition at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23. The event is free to attend.

Catch the **Rockville Art League's Winter Garden and the Rockville Student Juried Art show** before it leaves. This exhibition will be on display until Friday, Feb. 14.

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.

The Victorian Lyric Opera Company presents "The Anonymous Lover" 8 p.m. Feb. 21 and 22; 2 p.m. Feb. 23.

Step into a world of mystery and romance with Joseph Bologne's "The Anonymous Lover." This captivating operatic gem tells the story of Léontine, a wealthy widow, who finds herself the object of affection from a secret admirer. As she receives a series of passionate love letters, intrigue deepens and romance blossoms, leading to unexpected twists and revelations in this spell-binding journey into the complexities of love and identity.

This production will premiere the first full English translation of the opera from its original French.

Tickets cost \$28, \$26 for seniors 65 and older and \$24 for students. ✚



WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING THIS MONTH? ... Don't forget that Valentine's Day is Friday, 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.
SFC Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, 355 Martins Lane, 240-314-8750.
TF Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Dr., 240-314-8840.
TC Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., 240-314-8830.

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



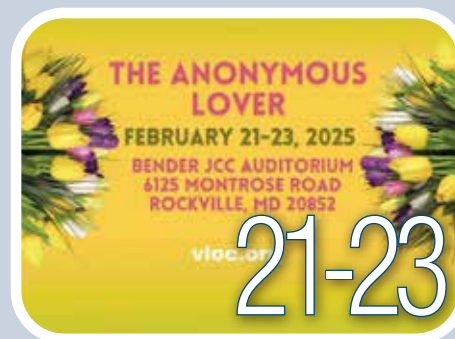
2



6



11,25



21-23

1 SALT WATCH COMMUNITY SCIENCE INITIATIVE See article on page 4. Ages 14 and older. Register with course #34147. Registration is required. Free. 1-2 p.m. **CC**

1 LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION See the article on page 1. Free. 3-5:30 p.m.

1,2,7,8,9 ROCKVILLE LITTLE THEATRE PRESENTS "KINDERTRANSPORT" See article on page 6.

2 FAMILIES OUTSIDE: GROUNDHOG DAY HIKE Explore John Hayes Forest Preserve habitats with naturalist-led nature outings. Adults and children must register and all children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 3 and older. Register with course #34144. \$5 R/\$6 NR. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **CC**

3 MEMORY CAFE Alzheimer's Association Memory Cafes offer a relaxed way for people with early-stage memory loss to connect through social events. Meets first and third Mondays. Bring a bag lunch. Contact Laura Byer at 240-844-3608 or lbbyer@alz.org. Register with course #34102. Free. Noon-1:30 p.m. **SR**

3,10,24 STRESS REDUCTION/MEDITATION (HYBRID) Tools for relaxation and meditation led by Betty Figliure. Register with course #34085. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

4 STAYING SOCIAL Learn strategies to stay socially active and connected. Register with course #33915. Free. 10-11:30 a.m. **SR**

4,18 V FRIENDSHIP SKILLS Practical tips for making new friends, improving existing friendships and navigating the changes that occur naturally in relationships. Meets first and third Tuesdays. Register with course #34077. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

5 HOMECARE 101 Learn about homecare services, how they support independence and what assistance is available. Register with course #33911. Free. 10 a.m.-noon. **SR**

5,15 LITTLE EXPLORERS Is your little one curious about nature? Join a naturalist for crafts, hands-on sensory activities, stories and hikes. Ages 2-5. Preregistration is required with course #34133. \$10 R/\$12 NR. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

5 TWINBROOK COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER ANNEX MURAL ENGAGEMENT SESSION See article on page 5. 7-8:30 p.m. **TC**

6 ALL ABOUT OWLS Learn about owls' adaptations and dissect an owl pellet. Register with course #33732. \$7 R/\$10 NR. 10:30-11:30 a.m. **CC**

4,20 V POSITIVE AGING ALONE A social group for seniors living alone. Meets first and third Thursdays. Register with course #34076. Free. 1-2:30 p.m.

7 GO RED FOR WOMEN Celebrate heart health awareness with discussions on cardiac care for Go Red for Women Day. Wear red and discuss what's new in cardiac care in 2025, with the opportunity for Q&A. Register with course #33835. Free. 10-11:30 a.m. **SR**

7 CHOCOLATE ALCHEMY Discover the science of chocolate and make your own creations. Create decadent delights to take home and enjoy. Ages 18 and older. Register with course #34148. \$20 R/\$25 NR. 6:30-8:30 p.m. **CC**

8 LINCOLN PARK PUBLIC ART PROJECT ENGAGEMENT SESSION See article on page 5. 9 a.m. **LP**

8 SUPERB OWL SATURDAY Learn about owls, meet Cricket, the owl ambassador, and dissect an owl pellet. Ages 6-12. Register with course #34141. \$8 R/\$10 NR. 1-2 p.m. **CC**

10 V A LOOK INTO PRESIDENTS DAY Learn the history of Presidents Day and its significance. Register with course #33803. \$7 R/\$10 NR. 1-2 p.m.

11 V THE HISTORY OF THE BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME AND HBCUS Explore the impact of historically Black colleges and their alumni on football. Register with course #33804. \$7 M/\$10 NM. 11 a.m.-noon.

11,25 V BRAIN GAMES Boost cognitive skills with fun activities. Meets second and fourth Tuesdays. Register with course #34075. Free. 1-2:30 p.m.

11 SCIENCE TUESDAYS Monthly presentations with scientists on engaging topics from the Rockville Science Center. Meets in person and online. Register with course #33842. Free. 1-2 p.m.

12 ESTATE PLANNING AND ELDER LAW ESSENTIALS Learn about wills, trusts and advance medical directives. Register with course #34073. Free. 10-11:30 a.m. **SR**

12 FOODS TO BOOST YOUR BRAIN POWER Discover how nutrition impacts brain health. Register with course #34084. Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

12 APHASIA SUPPORT GROUP Help for stroke survivors, particularly those with aphasia, overcome social isolation through guided communication activities like board games, arts and crafts, and music-making, enhancing their conversational abilities in a supportive environment. Meets once a month. Register with course #34099. Free. 1:30-2:30 p.m. **SR**

17 CITY GOVERNMENT CLOSED See article on page 1.

18 STORYTELLING WITH ERIN: FINDING COMFORT IN PAIN Share stories about managing pain and loss in a supportive environment. Register with course #33743. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

19 AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY Sandi L. Williams, co-director at the Sandy Spring Slave Museum and African Art Gallery, Inc., shares the rich history of Sandy Spring. Register with course #33836. \$7 M/\$10 NM. 10-11 a.m. **SR**

19 COLLEGE GARDENS PARK MURAL DESIGN SESSION See article on page 5. 7-8:30 p.m. **SR**

20 BETTER BREATHERS CLUB Learn about lung health, breathing techniques, and treatment options in this monthly club. Register with course #34086. Free. 1:30-2:30 p.m. **SR**

20 COUNTRY LINE DANCE PARTY Line-dance the afternoon away. Snacks provided. Register with course #33936. \$7 M/\$10 NM. 3:30-4:45 p.m. **SR**

20 V LINCOLN PARK: SPECIAL PLACES, PEOPLE AND STORIES See article on page 6. Free. 7-8 p.m.

21-23 VICTORIAN LYRIC OPERA COMPANY PRESENTS "THE ANONYMOUS LOVER" See article on page 6.

27 V HOW TO AVOID FAD DIETS Learn to identify nutrition misinformation and focus on evidence-based health tips. Register with course #34107. 1-2 p.m.

27 V THE INCREDIBLE LIFE OF JOHN B. JONES Follow the inspiring journey of John B. Jones, born into slavery, who found his way to freedom and served both his nation and community. Presented by Fort Monroe Authority. Register with course #33806. \$7 M/\$10 NM. 1-2 p.m.

28 SHOPPING APPS WITH SENIOR PLANET Tips for safe and secure online shopping. Register with course #34096. Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

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

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

Winter Plumbing Protection

continued from pg. 2...

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. ❄

Mayor of a Day

continued from pg. 3...

schools in Rockville to participate.

Mayor Ashton welcomes the opportunity to speak with students about the essay contest, municipal government and what it is like to be Rockville's mayor. Teachers or school administrators may email Judy Penny at jpenny@rockvillemd.gov to arrange a visit by the mayor, though a mayoral visit is not required for students to participate in the contest. ❄

Reduce Winter Salt

continued from pg. 4...

brine that has a lower salt concentration and can be more precisely applied than rock salt. Sometimes beet juice — yes, beet juice! — is mixed with the brine to help it work at lower temperatures. Staff also uses calculated salt-application rates, ensures that salt spreaders are properly calibrated and plans routes to avoid double-treating roads.

Last year, crews attended a "salt summit," hosted by the city's Environmental Management Division staff that focused on the impacts of salt on waterways. ❄



Drive Wisely: Tips for Winter Travel

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 and nonperishable snacks and water.

While driving in winter weather conditions:

- Always drive with your lights on to help increase visibility.
- Increase your following distance. Stopping distances are three to 12 times longer on winter surfaces.
- Come to a gradual stop. To reduce the risk of skidding, don't slam the brake pedal.
- Brake before curves and turn your steering wheel slowly and smoothly to help maintain control.
- Always wear your seat belt.

Protect Our Parks, Streams and Neighborhoods: Put Pet Waste in the Trash

Pet waste belongs in the trash, not on the ground. Pet waste contains twice as many bacteria per gram as human waste. In your yard, in our parks, in the dog park – wherever you are, pick up the poop and put it in the trash. Follow these tips to prevent pet waste from contaminating our streams:

- Carry disposable bags and pick up after your pet, even on trails and in the woods. If you hire a dog walker to walk your dog, make sure they pick up after your pet when on their walk.
- Properly dispose of pet waste by bagging the waste and depositing it in a trash can or pet waste receptacle.
- Do not throw bagged pet waste into storm drains or the woods, and do not leave it on the ground.
- Be sure to pick up pet waste on your own property too. Anything washed away by the rain will end up in our streams.
- Reuse bags that would have ended up in the trash to pick up after your pet. Ask co-workers, neighbors and friends to collect plastic bags used for bread, newspapers, bags or produce.



Rockville Villages

Be a part of the growing village movement in Rockville!

Villages are volunteer neighbor-to-neighbor support groups. Find out if there is a village developing in your neighborhood or how to get one started!

www.rockvillemd.gov/Villages
240 314-8807
Trish Evans • tevans@rockvillemd.gov



More than 600 bags of food with a variety of fresh produce await distribution to families in need in November.

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

Rockville's community warmth and holiday spirit were on display during the 2024 Holiday Drive, with 158 donors donating \$32,054 in cash to families and people in need throughout November and December.

In-kind, or non-monetary, donations totaled \$20,000.

Four-hundred-and-fifty volunteers donated 1,300 hours of their time. Hundreds of families were helped during the two-month campaign. In November, 629 families and seniors, a total of 2,159 people, were helped with the Holiday Drive's distribution of food. Families and seniors in need were provided with a \$15 grocery store gift card, a box of nonperishable food, a bag of produce and a pie, via an in-person drive-thru pickup at Elwood Smith Community Center or home delivery.

In December, 1,135 children from 454 families received toys and books for each child 11 and younger, and a \$25 Target gift card and books for those aged 12-17.

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

Distinguished Monetary

Donors: Robert Frost Middle School students; Kaye Craft; Nancy Taylor; Sandra Yerkes; Holly Haught; Pearl Chang and Chris Kern; Stephanie Beckett; Carla McNeilly and Robert Williamson; Sara Nash and Thomas Fauquier; Joanne and Howard Lewis; Michele Evans, Cynthia Callahan and John Marshall; Aileen Klein; Susan and William Reinsch; Kristina Sullivan; Georgina Roth; Kim Webster; David Saffold; Marika Brown; Evonne and Rod Ludema; Apex Companies, LLC; Burke Legal, LLC.

Distinguished Donors

(In-Kind): Robert Frost Middle School students; Julius West Middle School Junior National Honors Society; Lakewood Elementary School students; White Flint Montessori School students; ISS Corporate Solutions; ProMark Partners; Jennifer Dixon.

Distinguished Service

Donors: Rockville City Police Department; City of Rockville Department of Public Works; City of Rockville Department of Recreation and Parks; City of Rockville Department of Housing and Community Development's Latino Youth Development Program students. ✚

An Escape from Slavery Recognized With New Sign

A new Civil War Trails site honoring Zedekiah Thompson, a formerly enslaved man who self-emancipated and served in the United States Army, has been established at the intersection of North Washington Street and Wood Lane. The site, created in partnership with local historians and Civil War Trails, Inc., is part of Rockville's recognition of Black History Month.

Thompson escaped slavery at 31, enlisting in the 1st United States Colored Troops in June 1863. Wounded during battles near Petersburg, Virginia, he lived out his postwar years in Maine, dying at age 70.

The project was spearheaded by Rutgers University doctoral student Hugh Goffinet, with further research contributions from Peerless Rockville, Montgomery History and Rockville's



Historic Preservation Division. Civil War Trails, Inc., developed and installed the signage as part of its multistate initiative, with support from the Maryland Office of Tourism Development.

Thompson's story joins over 1,500 Civil War Trails sites across six states, including 18 in Montgomery County. These locations allow visitors to engage with history firsthand, using trail maps and guides to explore significant landmarks.

An official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new site will be set in the future. ✚



EVEN IN WINTER, POOL RENOVATIONS MAKE PROGRESS ... Work continued in January on a comprehensive renovation and reconfiguration of the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center's outdoor recreation pool.

Improvements are being made to accessibility, amenities will be modernized, and infrastructure will provide new recreational features and pools for swimmers of all ages and abilities.

Among tasks completed last month, the shallow section of the activity pool was shaped and piping laid, including connections to the pump room. Retaining walls for the stormwater management area were installed. And, as weather permitted, the contractor prepared for the pouring of concrete for the shallow section of the pool and continued installing plumbing and electrical systems throughout the site.

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

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Get Into It

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BACK IN THE DAY ... "Melissa and Tony Downs, and daughters Madelyn and Alyson, pictured at 'Dinosaur Park' – also known as Lone Oak Park, successfully met their goal of visiting each of the City of Rockville's 65 parks during 2016," read the caption of a photo in the February 2017 edition of "Rockville Reports." The family posted photos to Facebook and tracked their visits on a spreadsheet, with Madelyn and Alyson giving names to each park based on its playground equipment (and dinos being the theme at Lone Oak). Today, the city boasts 67 parks. Find one near you at www.rockvillemd.gov/parks.