

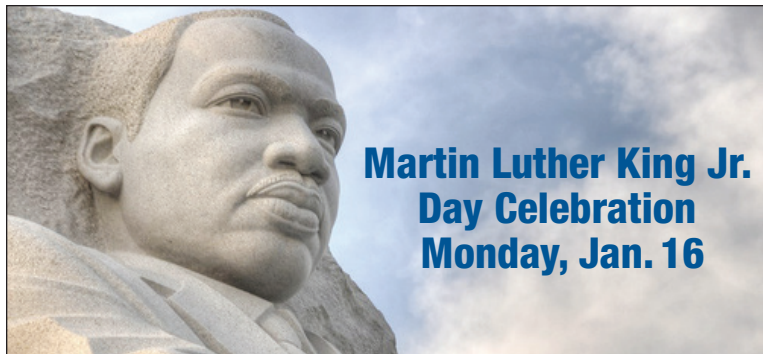


RockvilleReports

JANUARY 2023 • VOL. 68 #1



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



Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration Monday, Jan. 16

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

Rockville will celebrate the life and legacy of a civil rights leader with the city's 51st annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration on Monday, Jan. 16.

The celebration, which is free and open to all, will be held from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive. The program begins at 10:30 a.m. It is sponsored by the city's Human Rights Commission and will feature performances by emcee and spoken word artist Unique Robinson, vocalist Esi Abercrombie, Dem Raider Boyz Step Team, and Soul in Motion African Drum and Dance Group; awards; interactive booths from community organizations; and a continental breakfast, while supplies last.

Sharon Jackson Wilder, the inaugural chief equity and inclusion officer for Montgomery College, will deliver a keynote address based on the celebration's theme of "Boldly Imagining Our Future." The theme invites courage, creativ-

ity and curiosity as our community considers the work before us. It asks us to consider what lessons we can bring from the civil rights movement into the advocacy of today, as millennials and Gen Z have ushered in a new era of disruption and activism for racial, economic, social, gender and disability justice.

The ceremony will include the presentation of two awards. The Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Award will recognize a student at a Rockville high school who has worked to fulfill King's dream in either their school or the community. The F. Michael Taff Award will be presented to an individual, organization or business that has helped to improve the lives of people with disabilities, such as through efforts to improve accessibility or raise public awareness.

The city will also honor King's legacy with service activities. See the article on page 8 for more information.

Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk. ✚

City Manager Names Barack Matite New Deputy City Manager

Barack Matite, city manager for the City of Eudora, Kansas, will be Rockville's next deputy city manager, City Manager Rob DiSpirito has announced. Matite will formally assume the role Monday, Jan. 23.

Matite has served as city manager of Eudora since August 2016. He joined Eudora in 2012 and has served in several roles for the city. He was chosen from a strong field of more than 100 applicants nationwide.

Matite has a master's degree in public administration from the University of Kansas, a bachelor's degree in global and international studies from the University of Kansas, and attended the Senior Executive Institute at the University of Virginia, Weldon Cooper Center of Public Service.

"I am excited, honored and humbled to be selected to serve as the next deputy city manager for the City of Rockville," Matite said. "I look forward to becoming a member of the Rockville community and joining the Rockville team that is dedicated and works hard to achieve the Mayor and Council's vision and goals for the community."

Rockville's deputy city manager assists the city manager in directing and working with city departments to achieve departmental and citywide objectives, initiate and oversee strategic plans, and execute Mayor and Council policy initiatives. The



deputy city manager serves as acting city manager in the city manager's absence.

Matite will fill a position vacated by Angela Judge, who resigned this year to join her husband, Warren, when he assumed command of United States Coast Guard Training Center Cape May in Cape May, New Jersey.

"With his experience and accountability as a chief executive officer in a full-service city, Barack will bring all his professional talents and deep familiarity with the broad range of municipal services to this critical position on our team," DiSpirito said. "Barack fully understands what it takes to support the success of a mayor and council, a city organization, and a community of engaged and diverse residents. I look forward to working with Barack and introducing him as we serve the people of Rockville." ✚

New Year's and Martin Luther King Jr. Day Bring Closures

City Hall and most city facilities will be closed in observance of New Year's Day, Monday, Jan. 2 and Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 16.

Saturday, Dec. 31: Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm and Twinbrook community centers will be open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Croydon Creek Nature Center will be open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The Rockville Skate Park will be closed. The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will be open with limited hours and services. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter for details.

Sunday, Jan. 1: All city facilities will be closed.

Monday, Jan. 2: Recycling and trash collections will occur as usual during New Year's week. City Hall and most city facilities will be closed, including the Rockville Senior Center and fitness room; Croydon Creek Nature Center; the Rockville Skate Park; Glenview Mansion; the Rockville Civic Center business office; and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre box office. For theater tickets, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre.

Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm and Twinbrook community centers will be open 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

continued on pg. 2...

Commission Recommends Changes to Voting Age, Size of Mayor and Council, and City Elections

Lowering the voting age to 16, expanding the size of the Mayor and Council, term limits, representative districts and consideration of ranked-choice voting were among recommendations the city's Charter Review Commission presented to the Mayor and Council on Dec. 12.

The Mayor and Council are scheduled to discuss, during their Monday, Jan. 30 meeting, whether to adopt any of the recommenda-

tions and amend the city charter. Recommendations included:

Lowering the age to vote in city elections from 18 to 16, regardless of citizenship. The commission unanimously recommended this change and also recommended that the right to vote in city elections be extended to anyone "who has been a resident of the City of Rockville for six months preceding a municipal election, without regard to

citizenship."

Expanding the Mayor and Council from five members to seven, comprising a mayor and six councilmembers.

Limiting the mayor and councilmembers to three consecutive four-year terms. This would not preclude someone from serving as mayor following three consecutive terms as a councilmember, or vice versa.

Creating representative dis-

tricts. The commission deferred to the Mayor and Council on how to achieve this, as well as whether to include at-large seats.

The creation, by the Mayor and Council, of "a precise, open, transparent, and definitive administrative process for the election of a Councilmember when a vacancy occurs after the 24th month of a term."

Exploring ranked-choice voting and, if deemed appropriate, implementing the process, which allows voters to rank candidates on a ballot by order of preference. The commission also recom-

continued on pg. 2...

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** FY22 Financial Reports
- 3** Full Marks for LGBTQ+ Support
- 4** Get Free Radon Test Kits
- 6** Start Planning for Summer Camps

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

Mayor and Council Push County for Answers on Seven Locks Road Restoration Center Plans

The Mayor and Council have expressed concern about a delay and not having received a response from the county regarding on a planned restoration center at a 25.8-acre site along Seven Locks Road that is presently home to the Montgomery County Detention Center.

The Mayor and Council oppose the plans, as currently proposed by the county, to house at the site a future Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Criminal Justice Complex and restoration center. The site abuts eight city neighborhoods.

The Mayor and Council addressed a letter to the county in December requesting feedback on outstanding requests, including for a virtual forum, following up from an Oct. 6 meeting; a date for the next community meeting and steps to engage the public about the plans; written responses to questions raised by the community and Mayor and Council; and alternative locations that had been considered but set aside for the proposed restoration center.

"We wish to continue the positive dialogue with the County on its plans for the proposed Restoration Center, including alternative locations," the letter states. "Time is of the essence, as the Rockville community is eager for additional information and further opportunity to engage with the County on this critical issue."

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/SevenLocksProject for more information.

January Hours of Operation

continued from pg. 1...

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will be open. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter for details.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, Jan. 16: The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will be open for regular hours. City Hall and all other city facilities will be closed. Recycling and trash collections 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 is always free on Sundays and will be free at city-owned meters on Jan. 2 and Jan. 16.

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



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

FY 2022 Reports Highlight Rockville's Finances

Summaries Give Public a Look at the City's Fiscal Health

Two annual reports released last month give the public a closer look at Rockville's financial health during the most recently completed fiscal year.

For Fiscal Year 2022, which closed June 30, the city ended "with an overall net position of \$328.7 million, an increase of 7% over last year," City Manager Rob DiSpirito wrote in the city's Popular Annual Financial Report, a summary document highlighting the city's finances. Net position is a useful indicator of a government's financial health and represents total assets minus total liabilities.

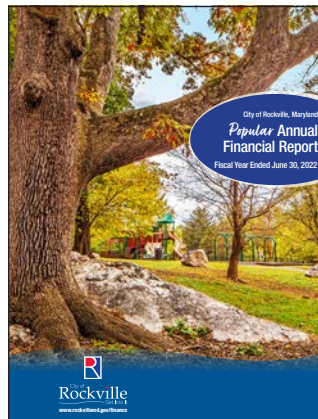
"The change in net position is based on increases in property tax revenue, income tax, and tax duplication revenues, coupled with conservative spending across City departments and programs," DiSpirito wrote.



That left the city with a general fund reserve of \$26.4 million, equal to approximately 31% of the total general fund adopted revenues, which is the main source of funding the city's day-to-day operations.

The city maintains a triple-A bond rating. Triple-A is the highest possible rating and saves Rockville taxpayers money by allowing the city to borrow at the lowest possible interest rates.

The city created the



first PAFR in 2007 to explain, in layman's terms, the information contained in Rockville's recently renamed Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, which was presented to the Mayor and Council on Dec. 12. The ACFR is prepared by the Finance Department in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and audited by certified public accountants.

The FY22 PAFR

describes:

- City government and services.
- Rockville demographics and statistics.
- The city's financial structure, including governmental funds, such as the general fund and the capital projects fund, and enterprise funds.
- The overall financial health of the city.
- The city's capital investments and debt.
- Property taxes and utility rates, including how to read tax and utility bills.

The PAFR and ACFR are available at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget. To view the ACFR presentation to the Mayor and Council, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter and select the television icon next to the Dec. 12 meeting listing.

To learn more, call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. ✚

Now Hiring

ROCKVILLE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Great Benefits. A Great Reputation.

- \$62,311 starting salary + \$6,000 hiring bonus OR
- \$70,036 lateral/certified starting salary + \$10,000 hiring bonus
- Take-home vehicle program: up to 35 air miles
- Bilingual pay stipend: \$3,120 annually
- 25-year pension + other retirement compensation
- Tuition reimbursement program
- Paid holidays + sick and vacation leave
- Medical, dental and life insurance plans

ACCEPTING APPLICANTS: JOINRCPD.COM

ROCKVILLE TOWN SQUARE PARKING

2 HOURS OF FREE PARKING

NO VALIDATION REQUIRED

THIRTY-TWO IN A ROW (AND COUNTING)! ... Rockville was proud to accept, for the 32nd year in a row, the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for Fiscal Year 2021. Documents produced by the city's Finance Department include the city's operating budget and capital improvements program, an Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, and a Popular Annual Financial Report. (Learn more about each in the article on this page.)

A KEY TO ROCKVILLE'S SUCCESS ... The Mayor and Council on Dec. 12 presented a certificate of appreciation and a key to the city to state Del. Jim Gilchrist, second from right, with (L to R) Councilmember Mark Pierzchala, Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and Councilmember Monique Ashton. Gilchrist, who opted not to run for reelection in 2022, served District 17, including Rockville and Gaithersburg, in the Maryland General Assembly for four terms, beginning in 2007. The Mayor and Council presentation was preceded by a reception at City Hall attended by community members. Rockville 11 takes you there at youtube.com/cityofrockville.

Commission Recommendations

continued from pg. 1...

mended that ballots offer a "None of the Above" option.

Exploring scheduling city elections to coincide with the presidential or gubernatorial elections. City elections are held every four years, with the next election in November. The commission unanimously voted to recommend against staggering councilmember elections by electing different seats in different years.

Other commission recommendations concerned election outreach, ballot drop boxes, and the terms, appointment and duties of members of the city's Board of Supervisors of Elections.

Find video and more information with the Dec. 12 Mayor and Council meeting listing at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. Or find the 2022 Charter Review Commission Report at www.rockvillemd.gov/charter-review-commission. ✚

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Be Careful With Batteries When Recycling this Holiday Season

When the post-holiday cleanup begins, remember: Rockville collects and recycles electronics, such as cell phones, computers, televisions and holiday lights through requests for special collections, and collects Christmas trees as part of its recycling and trash collection. (See the article on page 5 for more information about Christmas tree disposal.)



Getting rid of old batteries? Don't dispose of them in your trash or recycling cart, where they could start a fire. Instead, bring batteries of any size to the household hazardous waste drop-off at the county transfer station at 16105 Frederick Road.

Find more information, including locations that accept batteries for recycling, at bit.ly/BatteryDisposal.

For more information about how Rockville recycles, including printable holiday schedule calendars for your collection day, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash. For a bulk waste or electronics recycling collection appointment, select "Bulk Waste" or "Electronics & Metal" from the red sidebar at the left of the webpage.

Matching Grant Program Seeks Projects to Improve Communities

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

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

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

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

• Building community:

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

• Community improve-

ment projects: Projects that improve the shared space within a neighborhood or strengthen community identity. This may include landscape improvements and maintenance, natural features management, benches, painting, or certain exterior improvements. Bonus points will be awarded if two or more groups work together on a project.

• Livability initiatives:

Projects that provide educational and outreach opportunities that strengthen social connections between neighbors or neighborhoods. This may include improving safety, addressing a neighborhood challenge or conflict, serving low-income seniors, or finding ways to welcome newcomers to Rockville.

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

Grant funds will become available after Wednesday, March 1.

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

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

Town Center Road Diets Project Kicks Off

Seeks to Make Retail-Residential District Safer and Friendlier for Pedestrians and Bikes

A project to make Rockville Town Center safer for pedestrians and bicyclists by calming traffic kicked off Nov. 21 as city staff and the city's contractor discussed construction of the Town Center Road Diets Project.

At a kickoff meeting, city staff and the city's contractor discussed the construction schedule for the project, including a projected completion date of early fall 2023.

Arden Company will construct the project. It will improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety by narrowing the two travel lanes on North Washington Street and East Middle Lane to one lane in each direction, and by creating protected bike lanes, parking and signage. The project will also widen the sidewalk on the south side of East Middle Lane between North Washington Street and Maryland Avenue.

Arden Company plans to order construction materials and begin small portions of the construction in January or February, depending on weather conditions and material availability. However, the major work will begin in March 2023.



As part of a Mayor and Council initiative, the project was developed through a consultant's study of how to improve Town Center's vitality. The study followed recommendations by a panel of Urban Land Institute experts who visited the city in July 2019.

The project is also one of several to improve safety for people driving, walking, rolling, bicycling and using transit as part of Vision Zero, the city's strategy to eliminate traffic and pedestrian fatalities, and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy and fair mobility for all.

Find the project plan under "Vision Zero Projects" at www.rockvillemd.gov/visionzero.

For more information, contact Public Works at transportationinquiry@rockvillemd.gov.

City to Give Away Radon Test Kits for National Radon Action Month

The City of Rockville is giving away 150 radon test kits to city residents for National Radon Action Month.

The test kit involves placing a small measuring device in the basement or the lowest level of your home, raised 3 feet off the ground, in the middle of the room for two to four days. Once the test is completed, follow the directions on the test kit packaging to mail the device to a laboratory for results.

Reservations for a free test kit, a link to discounted \$3 kits and more can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/radon.

A new radon law goes into effect Sunday, Jan. 1 in Rockville that applies Montgomery County's home

energy disclosure and radon testing laws to the sale of single-family homes and townhomes in Rockville.

The change provides home buyers with access to important home health and energy information.

The Mayor and Council adopted the ordinance on July 18 to allow residents and businesses time to comply with the requirement and to coincide with National Radon Action Month in January.

The goal is to protect public health from radon exposure and promote home energy efficiency, an objective of the city's Climate Action Plan.

Radon, which was Rockville's focus for Building Safety Month in May, is an invisible, odorless, tasteless,

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



radioactive gas. While no immediate symptoms signal its presence, exposure at high levels can cause cancer. Testing is the only way to know a home's radon levels.

The city's building code requires all new single-family construction to include passive radon mitigation, such as subfloor preparation, installation of a soil-gas retarder, the closure of potential radon entry routes and the instal-

lation of vent pipes, all of which are verified through required city inspections.

Last summer, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded Rockville Housing Enterprises, the city's public housing agency, \$157,870 to support radon testing and mitigation demonstrations. Rockville was one of nine U.S. cities awarded funding.

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."

Snow Info: Be In-the-Know About Winter Weather

Quick Links, Facts and Phone Numbers

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

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

Rockville requires that property and/or business owners remove snow and ice from sidewalks, steps, driveways, parking spaces and similar paved areas for public use within 24 hours after a snowfall of up to 3 inches, within 48 hours after a snowfall of 3-10 inches, and within 72 hours after a snowfall of more than 10 inches. If residents can do so, they should clear snow from around fire hydrants and storm drains. To report a sidewalk that has not been cleared within the required timeframe, call 240-314-8330. ❄️

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



ALERT Rockville

Winter is here! And snow!

Get an **Alert Rockville** account at www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts.

Be even more in-the-know when it snows: Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather.

Connect with us on Social Media.





MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ... Now on Rockville 11's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/cityofrockville): Rockville installs its first repair rack for bicyclists; the Mayor and Council celebrate and thank state Del. Jim Gilchrist for his public service; the city receives full marks for support of its lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community; and celebrate Rockville Economic Development, Inc.'s 25th anniversary.



Recycling and Refuse Reminders: Trees, Polystyrene, Needles and Bags

From taking away your Christmas tree to purging your home of plastic bags, the city's recycling and trash collections can help you safely cleanup from the holidays.

Rockville collects Christmas trees as part of its recycling collection. Place trees at the curb for pickup on regular recycling and trash collection days after removing all ornaments and metals, wires, stands and decorations, including tinsel. Trees should not be bagged. There is no deadline for curbside collection of trees. Artificial trees should be placed in the gray trash cart for regular weekly collection. Artificial trees that are too large to fit in the cart can be collected by appointment as one of six bulk collections allowed per year or taken to the transfer station. For bulk-waste disposal information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/bulkwaste.

The City of Rockville collects used polystyrene as part of its weekly trash collection and takes it, along with other household refuse, for disposal in the county's waste-to-energy incinerator. Often mistakenly called "Styrofoam," the material, commonly used to protect package contents during shipping, should not be placed in recycling carts. Instead, place it in the gray trash cart.

When disposing of needles, such as medical sharps and syringes, use containers made of heavy-duty plastic that close tightly with a puncture-proof lid. This prevents our recycling and trash collection crews from getting stuck. Label the container and place it in the middle of your household trash in the gray trash cart – or find a disposal program. Learn more about safe disposal at bit.ly/howtorecyclesharps.

Got a city recycling or trash cart that's falling apart? Damaged lift bars on city recycling or trash carts can cut customers and crew members. Call 240-314-8568. We'll replace it for you. To find a nearby grocery store that accepts plastic bags for recycling, visit bit.ly/howto recyclebags. ❄️

Nominations Wanted for Environmental Excellence Awards

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 reviews the materials and recommends awards to the Mayor and Council.

Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/environment/awards. ❄️

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. 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 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 the Rockville's snow removal policies.

Rockville is Getting EV Ready — And You Can Help!

All around Rockville, from residents to the city's own Fleet Services Division, vehicle owners are recognizing the benefits of skipping the gas pump and going electric.

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

Help Rockville develop the plan by completing the city's sustainable transportation survey at engagerockville.com/evplan by Sunday, Jan. 15.

Give Green a Go 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.



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

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

Rockville history comes alive through stained glass in January as the Glenview Mansion and Peerless Rockville Speaker Series hosts "History and Stained Glass of Jerusalem-Mt. Pleasant Church."

Chiquita Sorrels, historian of Jerusalem-Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, will deliver an illustrated presentation that explores the church's history with a focus on its stained-glass windows.

The in-person presentation, at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12 at Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, will explore how the church evolved from its founding in 1835 with a racially mixed congregation to an all-Black congregation after the Civil War; and, in the 20th century, added stained-glass windows memorializing individuals and organizations in the community.

The event is free, but registration is requested at www.eventbrite.com/e/465821844677.

For more information, call Glenview Mansion at 240-314-8660.

Grow and Go Greener: Grow Your Own

Got what it takes to grow your own? The City of Rockville has 178 garden plots, measuring 20-by-25 feet, available for rent at Woottons Mill Park, on Hurley Avenue, where you can test your gardening chops.

Registration for the plots opens 9 a.m. Monday, Jan. 9. The program runs from Saturday, April 1 to Sunday, Nov. 12.

The cost per plot is \$75 for Rockville residents, \$85 for nonresidents.

The city provides six water spigots throughout the garden area; gardeners are responsible for fencing, weed barriers, hose, tools and other gardening supplies.

Registration forms will be posted at www.rockvillemd.gov/gardenplots or call Rockville Civic Center's main office number, 240-314-8660, for more information.

DNR Grants to Help the City with Stream Restoration and Flood Resiliency Projects

Maryland's Department of Natural Resources recently awarded Rockville grants to cover the costs of stream restoration at Croydon Creek and the Calvin Park tributary to Rock Creek, and address flooding through the city's Flood Resiliency Master Plan.

A \$2 million grant will help offset the cost of a \$5.2 million project to reduce erosion of the stream banks and enhance stream and buffer habitat along Croydon Creek and the Calvin Park tributary.

A \$75,000 grant will offset the cost of the city's Flood Resiliency Master Plan, which is intended to identify current and predicted flood-prone areas and prioritize mitigation projects to reduce flood impacts.

The Mayor and Council voted Dec. 12 to authorize the city manager to sign the agreement for the flood plan grant and are scheduled to vote Monday, Jan. 9 to authorize the agreement for the Croydon Creek and Calvin Park tributary project.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for video and a staff report with the Dec. 12 Mayor and Council meeting listing, and for more information when the Jan. 9 Mayor and Council agenda becomes available.

Rockville Civic Center Park: January's Cultural Choices

Rockville Little Theatre presents "Pride@Prejudice"

8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays, from Jan. 27-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.

Daniel Elihu Kramer's affectionate take on one of the world's most popular love stories not only delivers all the delightful twists and turns of the novel's plot, it looks at our love affair with reading and this extraordinary book in

particular.

Tickets are \$22; \$20 for students and seniors. Group pricing is available; call the box office at 240-314-8690 for more information.

Glenview Mansion Art Gallery Features the 2023 Rockville Student Juried Art Exhibit

An exhibition of varied media from Rockville students in grades 6-12, Sunday, Jan. 22 to Friday, Feb. 17.

Meet the artists 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 22.

Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. The gallery is closed on official city holidays. ❄️

Your Adventure Awaits with Rockville's 2023 Summer Camps

Rockville's 2023 summer camp season will be here before you know it and it's almost time to plan your adventure! Information will be online Tuesday, Jan. 31 at www.rockvillemd.gov/life. Don't wait to start your kids' adventures and give them memories and stories to last a lifetime.

Registration opens 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15 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. Summer Blast and Park Adventure camps both welcome children aged 5-12 and run from June 26 until mid-August. Park Adventure features swimming, field trips and a variety of games, crafts, water activities and outdoor play time.

Specialized camps include cooking, drama, STEAM, gymnastics, art and fashion design. New chess camps and Manchester City Soccer



camps have been added.

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

College and high school students aged 16 or older who are looking to refine their leadership skills can apply for summer camp positions at www.rockvillemd.gov/careers.

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

All camps are licensed by the state of Maryland and follow federal, state and local health and safety guidelines.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/camps for more information and view the "Summer Camps 2023" guide at www.rockvillemd.gov/life, beginning Jan. 31. ❄️

Live Longer, Breathe Better and Put Your Best Foot Forward, This Month at the Senior Center

Welcome in the new year and stay healthy and informed with seminars from the Rockville Senior Center in January.

Register with the course number at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration. Learn about 60-plus programs, courses, activities and services at www.rockvillemd.gov/seniorcenter or by calling 240-314-8800. See the "Adults 60+" recreation guide at www.rockvillemd.gov/life for more information.

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

Anti-Aging and Longevity

Dr. Carlos Martinez of CAM Physical Therapy, provides tips to boost health as you age. Many factors can influence healthy aging. Research shows making small daily changes can help you live longer.

Register with course #24963. Wednesday, Jan. 4. 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, Jan. 19. In person.

Stress Reduction/ Meditation

Tools to focus, relax and come to a more peaceful sense of being, with time for both discussion and meditation. This class emphasizes mindfulness and presence.

Register with course #24949. Mondays Jan. 9-March 27. \$30 members/\$40 nonmembers. Hybrid.

Best Foot Forward

Learn about common problems that can affect your mobility and comfort from Dr. David Engorn as he discusses foot and ankle conditions. Q&A follows.

Register with course #24969. Thursday, Jan. 26. Virtual only. ❄️

Rockville Seeks Artists for Two Murals

Rockville is searching for artists to design and create murals for City Hall and the Rockville Senior Center.

Two calls for artists have been issued for each project.

The artist eventually chosen for the City Hall project will be asked to create a mural to beautify a cover for an exterior generator that faces Maryland Avenue.

The second mural is planned for an exterior wall to the entrance of the Rockville Senior Center's popular exercise studio and fitness room at 1150 Carnation Drive.

The budget for each project is \$12,500. The deadline to apply for both calls for artists is Friday, Jan. 20. Selected finalists will be announced the week of Jan. 23. Installation of both projects is anticipated in summer/fall 2023.



pated in summer/fall 2023.

Details about application, with requirements for submissions, can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/AIPP. A survey for community input also can be found at this link.

For more information, contact arts programs supervisor Betty Wisda at 240-314-8681 or bwisda@rockvillemd.gov. ❄️



WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING THIS MONTH? Happy New Year, Rockville! Of course, we're celebrating 2023, with its fresh slate. But we're also putting the kettle on — January is, among other recognitions, National Hot Tea Month. It's also a month dedicated to awareness of being a blood donor, braille literacy, mentoring, soup and hobbies. More seriously, it's National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, too.

January CALENDAR

FACILITIES LEGEND:

- CC** Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Rd., 240-314-8770.
- GM** Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8660.
- FSF** F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8690.
- LP** Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Ave., 240-314-8780.
- CH** Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., 240-314-5000.
- SR** Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Dr., 240-314-8800.
- SFB** Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, 355 Martins Lane, 240-314-8750.
- TF** Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Dr., 240-314-8840.
- TC** Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., 240-314-8830.

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



1 FAMILIES OUTSIDE: FIRST DAY HIKE Start the year off right and hike with a naturalist. Meet at Croydon Creek Nature to hike through the woods and enjoy the morning. Ages 3 and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult and all participants must register. \$5 R/\$6 NR. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

2 CITY HALL and most facilities closed to observe New Year's Day. *See article on page 1.*

4 ANTI-AGING AND LONGEVITY Join Dr. Carlos Martinez, CAM Physical Therapy, for tips on boosting health as you age. Register with course #24963. Hybrid. Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

4 NEW YEAR'S ROCK'IN AROUND THE SENIOR CENTER Visit rooms throughout the center to discover tasty appetizers, drinks and desserts, culminating with a New Year's kickoff and other festivities. Register with course #25580. \$5. 3:30-5 p.m. **SR**

4 V ASK AN EV (ELECTRIC VEHICLE) OWNER Shopping for an EV? Questions about your new EV? Just curious about EVs? If you can answer yes to any of these questions, this event is for you. Visit evadc.wildapricot.org/ask. 7:30-8:30 p.m.

5,28 LITTLE EXPLORERS Take time with your little one and go exploring with a naturalist. Hiking, games and hands-on learning are all part of the fun! Registration is required with course #25331. \$8 R/\$10 NR. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

5 WINTER WARRIORS How do your favorite animals survive in winter? Learn how some animals adjust to the cold, how some avoid it and how others thrive and enjoy it. Register with course #24797. \$6 M/\$9 NM. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

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

10 PHOTOGRAPHY: HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY, AESTHETICS, 1830-2022 Learn about the technical development of photography from the earliest photograms to the digital world, with examples of historical cameras and images from the presenter's personal collection. Register with course #24926. \$6 M/\$9 NM. 11 a.m.-noon. **SR**

12 LIFE EXPECTANCY: NEW RESEARCH AND FINDINGS Look at the major factors that contribute to longevity. Register with course #24785. \$6 M/\$9 NM. 11 a.m.-noon. **SR**

12 GLENVIEW MANSION AND PEERLESS ROCKVILLE SPEAKER SERIES HOSTS "HISTORY AND STAINED GLASS OF JERUSALEM-MT. PLEASANT CHURCH" *See article on page 6.* 7 p.m. **GM**

16 CITY HALL and most facilities closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. *See articles on pages 1.*

16 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION Join the City of Rockville for the 51st annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration. *See articles on pages 1 and 8.* 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Richard Montgomery High School.

16 MLK DAY OF SERVICE TRAIL CLEANUP Take part in the National Day of Service to help improve your community and the environment. *See articles on pages 1 and 8.* 10 a.m.-noon. **CC**

22 FAMILY CAMPFIRE: YEAR OF THE RABBIT Gather around the campfire with your friends for stories, snacks and more. Adults must accompany children and all participants must register. Register with course #25342. \$6 R/\$7 NR. 2-3 p.m. **CC**

22 GLENVIEW MANSION ART GALLERY 2023 ROCKVILLE STUDENT JURIED ART EXHIBIT Varied media from Rockville students in grades 6-12. Meet the artists 1:30-3:30 p.m. Gallery hours 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Closed on official city holidays.

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

24 V INTERGENERATIONAL GAME NIGHT The Rockville Senior Center's first intergenerational virtual game night of the new year. Try your chances at bingo with your peers and local teens. Cards will be available virtually or for seniors to pick up at the senior center. Register with course #24938. Free. 7-7:45 p.m.

25 OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB Spend an hour investigating and learning about nature. Play games, perform experiments and explore the forest preserve. Dress for the weather as a majority of time is spent outside. Meets every other Wednesday. Ages 6-11. Register with course #25338. \$40 R/\$50 NR. 4-5 p.m. **CC**

27,28,29 ROCKVILLE LITTLE THEATRE PRESENTS "PRIDE@PREJUDICE" *See article on page 6.* 8-10 p.m. **FSF**

28 LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION The City of Rockville celebrates Lunar New Year by offering a free event that celebrates Rockville's Asian cultures with performances, to-go activities and snacks. *See article on page 8.* 10-1 p.m. Thomas S. Wootton High School.

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

*Wishing you a
Healthy and Happy
New Year!
—From the City of Rockville*

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

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

Shared-Use Path Complete as Baltimore Road Corridor Improvements Continue

City contractors recently completed construction of a shared-use path near Rockville High School and are turning their attention to sidewalk installation on Baltimore Road and Broadwood Drive as work continues along the corridor between Rockville Town Center and the city's east side.

In late fall, contractors finished installing a pervious shared-use path, curb and gutter on the south side of Baltimore Road between the Rockville High School driveway and Twinbrook Parkway. Crews also installed storm drain between Edmonston Drive and Avery Road and near Broadwood Drive, and completed permanent roadway striping between First Street and Edmonston Drive.

Upcoming work will focus on concrete work as the winter weather allows.

Learn more about the project at www.rockvillemd.gov/baltimoreproject. 🌱

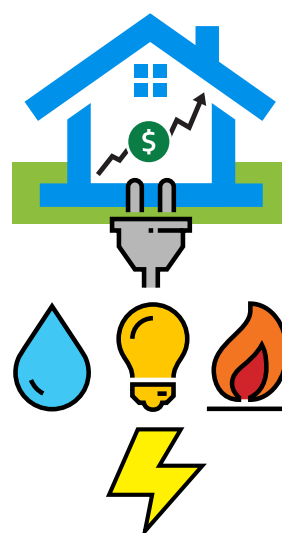
ARE YOUR UTILITY BILLS TOO HIGH?

Apply for Rockville's Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

- Referrals for Quick Home Energy Check-Ups and weatherization improvements.
- No cost energy-efficiency upgrades to your home for qualified residents.
- Help navigating the application process for local energy-efficiency resources.

All programs require eligibility screening. Funds subject to availability. For information, contact: Niambi Powell at 240-314-8319 or npowell@rockvillemd.gov.

www.rockvillemd.gov/communityservices



Know anyone 60+ who needs our help?

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

- ✓ Food & Financial Assistance
- ✓ Counseling & Outreach
- ✓ Support
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Connecting with Peers
- ✓ Grocery Shopping



- ✓ Home Maintenance
- ✓ Health, Wellness, Technology & Education
- ✓ Medical Equipment Loans



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

Free, Reconditioned Bikes for TERRIFIC Kids

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.

Due to the limited number of bicycles, participants must preregister for the free program by Friday, Feb. 17. Selected participants will be emailed information by Wednesday, March 1 on how to track and submit their good deeds.

For questions or more information, call 240-314-8620. Preregistration is required to be eligible to participate in the TERRIFIC Bike Award program. Register for course #26674 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

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

Rockville Likes Bikes (And Bikes Like Us!)

The League of American Bicyclists on Dec. 14 announced that Rockville has been designated a Bicycle Friendly Community at the Bronze level.

The city was named one of 501 bicycle-friendly communities — spanning all 50 states — recognized for efforts to be more welcoming to bicyclists. Learn more about the award at www.bikeleague.org.

Rockville has 34.6 miles of shared-use paths, 3.9 miles of bike lanes and 2.9 miles of roads with sharrows, and strives to create a safe, well-connected network for bicycling in the city. Learn more about biking in Rockville at www.rockvillemd.gov/bicycling.

Drive Safely! Tips for Sharing the 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. Drivers who are aware of people walking, rolling and bicycling can make traveling safer for everyone. Here are a few tips to keep in mind for safe driving around people bicycling and walking:

- Bicyclists travel faster than you may think. Instead of speeding past them, it's safer to be patient and let them go ahead or to wait until there is space to pass them.
- When passing, move to the left as soon as possible and remember to leave at least 3 feet of space between an automobile and a bicycle.
- Remember that bicyclists are allowed to use the full travel lane. A person could choose to ride closer to the middle of the lane to avoid debris and stormwater drainage grates, the potential for opening car doors, and traffic approaching from the right.
- Make complete stops at stop signs.
- Always try to make eye contact, but keep in mind that people may not be able to make eye contact if it is dark or there is glare on the window. Never assume people see you.
- Always signal when turning. When making a right turn, check the blind spots for people bicycling through the intersection. This can help prevent "right hook" crashes.
- Remember that not everyone can just "walk around." When parking, be sure to not encroach on the sidewalk or curb ramp.

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



Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

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

Serve Our City: MLK Day Offers Service Opportunities

Rockville will honor Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and legacy with a week of service activities and its 51st annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration on Monday, Jan. 16.

King recognized the power of service. The civil rights leader famously said, "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve." Rockville begins each year with a commitment to making our community a better place.

The city is sponsoring service activities in which the community can participate. (Some of these activities are weather dependent and may be rescheduled).

Community members are encouraged to bring dry or canned food to the city's Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration on Monday, Jan. 16 at Richard Montgomery High School. Find celebration details on page 1.

Other activities include:

- Creating kits for unsheltered veterans.
- Partnering with Project Linus to make blankets for sick children.
- A trail cleanup to remove trash from the Hayes Forest Preserve at Croydon Creek Nature Center.
- A Weed Warriors invasive plant pull at a city park.
- Meal packaging with nonprofit Rise Against Hunger, a global effort to end hunger.

Additional opportunities to volunteer in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. and throughout the year can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer, including donating to nonprofits, volunteering with food banks and pantries, delivering meals and groceries to vulnerable seniors, and serving on a city board or commission. ✚



HEY, THAT'S GREAT. BUT WHO ARE THE CHEFS? ... The chefs, or bakers, in the case of a bread pudding bake-off at Main Street Connect in Rockville Town Center on Nov. 30, were our chiefs — Rockville City Police Department's Chief Victor Brito and Montgomery County Police Chief Marcus Jones. The chiefs joined friends in Poppy Boy's Kitchen at Main Street Connect for a special edition of "Bake with Sharon," in which they both took home Top Baker honors. To that we say: "Great googly-moogly." (Google it for a good laugh.) Find more bake-off coverage at facebook.com/RockvilleCityPolice and mainstreetconnect.org.



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.

Celebrate Rockville's Asian Cultures and Lunar New Year

Rockville rings in the Year of the Rabbit this month, with performances and interactive displays, at the city's Lunar New Year celebration.

The annual celebration, organized by the city in partnership with Rockville's Asian Pacific American Task Force, will be held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, at Thomas S. Wootton High School, 2100 Wootton Parkway. Admission is free.

Multicultural performances will be from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Confirmed performers include kung fu by US Chinese Wushu Institute, drumming by Peace Mission Korean Dance Group, a piano selection by Seasharp Music Studio, opera by DC Beauty of Beijing Opera Ltd., and dance performances by Xiaorong Dance Arts, Natananjali School of Dance, and Fairfax County Dance Troupe.

A to-go activity for kids and to-go bento boxes will be available while supplies last.

This will be the 12th edition of the city's Lunar New Year celebration, which is a source of pride for the city and an educational opportunity for neighbors to learn about Asian culture. The

celebration will mark 4721, the Year of the Rabbit on the Chinese zodiac calendar. One in three Rockville residents was born outside the United States and 54 percent of the city's foreign-born population was born in Asia, according to the city's planning department.

Want to experience Asian culture but can't make it to the Lunar New Year celebration? Rockville Sister Cities Corporation, in partnership with WQER-LP 96.7 FM Radio and the Chinese Culture Institute, holds 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 and displays, and ethnic cuisine. For more information, contact Rockville Sister Cities Corporation at 240-314-5029 or RockvilleSisterCities@gmail.com or visit RockvilleSisterCities.org. ✚



Sanitation and Recycling Workers Wanted

Join a great team with long-term career potential!



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

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

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



BACK IN THE DAY ... The City of Rockville launched a new public involvement initiative in 2013 to increase communication with the public. Engage Rockville sought input from the community on a wide range of topics related to the quality of life and city services in Rockville.