



RockvilleReports

JANUARY 2024 • VOL. 69 #1



GET SET FOR
SNOW SEASON
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Mayor and Council Pass Resolution Rejecting Anti-Palestinian, Anti-Israeli, Anti-Arab, Antisemitism, Anti-Jewish and Anti-Muslim Hate

The Mayor and Council on Dec. 18 unanimously passed a resolution, "Rejecting Anti-Palestinian, Anti-Israeli, Anti-Arab, Antisemitism, Anti-Jewish, and Anti-Muslim Hate in the City of Rockville."

Find video of the discussion and vote with the Dec. 18 Mayor and Council meeting listing at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. The resolution reads:

WHEREAS the Mayor and Council of Rockville, through Resolutions 10-21 (To Endorse and Commit to the Establishment of Government Policies and Practices that Promote Racial and Ethnic Equity and Social Justice), 12-21 (Hate Has No Place Here: Condemning and Denouncing All Hate and Hate-Motivated Violent Actions in the City of Rockville), and 16-23 (Antisemitism Resolution TOCC), strongly affirm an ongoing commitment to combating hate, prejudice, and discrimination in the City of Rockville; and

WHEREAS the Mayor and Council are aware of numerous incidents of anti-Palestinian, anti-Israeli, anti-Arab, Antisemitism, anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim hate in our neighborhoods, places of worship, and schools; and

WHEREAS the Mayor and Council understand that lasting peace comes from dialogue, understanding, and respect for the human rights of all people, and that global conflicts can have far-reaching impacts on the Rockville community; and

WHEREAS the Mayor and Council must stand in solidarity against all forms of anti-Palestinian, anti-Israeli, anti-Arab, Antisemitism, anti-Jewish and an-

ti-Muslim violence in Rockville, and must advocate for peaceful and just resolutions to conflicts; and

WHEREAS the Mayor and Council believe in the importance of cultivating a community in which all residents can live, work, learn, play, and worship free from fear; and

WHEREAS the Mayor and Council commit to countering hate and extremism through engagement with all communities, governmental transparency, community conversations, public information sharing regarding efforts to fight extremism, and the investigation and prosecution of those who commit criminal acts by working through the legal system, consistent with civil liberties protections; and

WHEREAS all ideologies based on hate, violence, and intolerance are rejected and condemned, and the Mayor and Council emphatically denounce hate and extremism;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rockville Mayor and Council condemn all acts of anti-Palestinian, anti-Israeli, anti-Arab, Antisemitism, anti-Jewish, and anti-Muslim hate in Rockville, Maryland.

Mayor and Council Reaffirm Support for Resolution by County Municipalities

The Mayor and Council also reaffirmed the city's commitment to a resolution against antisemitism signed earlier this year by then-Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and endorsed by 14 Montgomery County municipalities. Find it at www.rockvillemd.gov/ResolutionAgainstAntisemitism. ✚

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Celebration

Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Rockville High School
2100 Baltimore Road
Free and open to all.



'Finding Fellowship' and Spotighting Service at Rockville's MLK Celebration

Join the City of Rockville for something new at this month's Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration.

The 52nd annual celebration, one of Rockville's signature events, will move from the traditional Monday holiday to 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13 at Rockville High School, 2100 Baltimore Road. It will feature a new conference-style format with a film screening and question-and-answer session, a panel discussion, performances and the Salute to Nonprofits.

Hosted by the Mayor and Council and the city's Human Rights Commission, the free event kicks off a week of service and celebration of King's legacy and founding principles. The Salute to Nonprofits will offer an opportunity to learn about organizations serving our community and to sign up to take part in service projects. Read the article below for more information about service opportunities, including those offering Student Service Learning credits.

The celebration will also fea-

ture a screening of the award-winning documentary "Finding Fellowship." The film, about belonging and building community in a divided world, recounts how three racially segregated churches in Gaithersburg's Quince Orchard community merged in the months following King's assassination in 1968.

The Rev. Gerard A. Green Jr., a Quince Orchard native and former district superintendent for the Greater Washington District of the Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church who is featured in the film, will participate in a question-and-answer session following the screening.

The day also includes a panel discussion with city and county justice, equity, diversity and inclusion professionals; a drum performance by Soul in Motion; a kid-friendly performance by Groovy Nate; and a kids craft activity. A continental breakfast will be provided, while supplies last.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk. ✚

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

City Hall and all city facilities will be closed for New Year's Day, Monday, Jan. 1. All city facilities except the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will be closed on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, Jan. 15.

Recycling, trash and yard waste normally collected on Mondays will occur one day later than usual throughout both holiday weeks. For more information, 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. 1 and Jan. 15.

On Sunday, Dec. 31, The Rockville Skate Park will close at 7 p.m. The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will offer limited services and will close at 4 p.m. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter for details.

Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm and Twinbrook community centers will be open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 31, closed Mondays, Jan. 1 and Jan. 15, and open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2.

The Rockville Senior Center and fitness room, Glenview Mansion, the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre box office, and the Rockville Civic Center business office are always closed Sundays and will be closed Mondays, Jan. 1 and Jan. 15. For

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The City of Rockville's Mayor and Council. Seated from left to right: councilmembers Adam Van Grack, Izola (Zola) Shaw and Barry Jackson; Mayor Monique Ashton; councilmembers Marissa Valeri, Kate Fulton and David Myles.

City to Honor King and Salute Nonprofits with Opportunities to Serve

Rockville honors Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and legacy this month as the city holds its 52nd annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration and sponsors a week of service activities.

King recognized the power of service. The civil rights leader famously said, "Everyone can be great because everybody can serve." In 1994, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act

to designate the federal holiday as a National Day of Service. By observing Martin Luther King Jr. Day through service activities, Rockville begins each year with a commitment to making our community a better place.

The city is seeking community members to participate in the following service activities. Some are weather dependent and may be

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In This Issue...

2 Reduce Your Radon Risk

3 Budget Work and Financial Reports

5 All About Bike Lanes

6 Get Set for Summer Camps

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

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RHE Seeks Board Members

The Rockville Housing Enterprises Board of Commissioners is recruiting volunteers to fill two vacancies.

Rockville Housing Enterprises is the city's public housing authority. The five-person commission is appointed by the Mayor and Council to three-year terms.

Of the two vacancies, one must be filled by a current RHE resident and/or program participant to provide input from a resident's perspective on policy and program matters.

RHE is a public housing agency that provides affordable housing to the Rockville community. It is an independent organization created by the Mayor and Council to provide and administer public and assisted housing in the city for the city's low- and moderate-income households.

To submit an application, visit bit.ly/applyrkvbc.

To learn more about volunteering with Rockville's boards and commissions, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions.

Holiday Closures

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theater tickets, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre.

Croydon Creek Nature Center will be closed Sunday, Dec. 31 and Mondays, Jan. 1 and Jan. 15.

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

MLK and Salute to Nonprofits

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rescheduled:

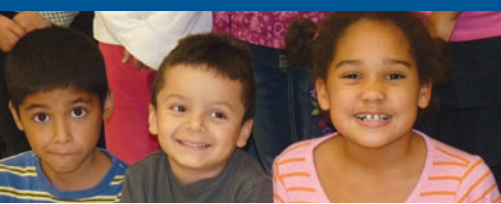
- Creating kits for unsheltered veterans.
- Partnering with Project Linus to make blankets for sick children.*
- A trail cleanup to remove trash from the Hayes Forest Preserve at Croydon Creek Nature Center.*
- A Weed Warriors invasive plant pull at RedGate Park, 14500 Avery Road.*
- Helping Comfort Cases by donating Comfort Backpacks with items to comfort children going into the foster care system.

*Activities eligible for Student Service Learning credit through Montgomery County Public Schools.

For more information, and to register to participate, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.

Meet city partner organizations and discover additional opportunities to serve through the Salute to Nonprofits at the city's Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13 at Rockville High School. Learn more about the event in the article on page 1. ✚

We Need Your Support!



Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization established to:

- Improve recreational activities, programs, parks and facilities.
- Support the Rockville Youth Recreation Fund.
- Assist with fundraising, and the acquisition and maintenance of new parks and open space.
- Purchase equipment and other amenities for the city's parks and facilities.



Please send your tax deductible gift to:
200-B Monroe St.
Rockville, MD 20850
www.rpf.org • 240-314-8867

Matching Grant Program Seeks Projects to Improve Communities

Application Deadline is Jan. 19

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.

The Community Empowerment Matching Grant application deadline is Friday, Jan. 19. Neighborhood, civic or homeowners associations, community groups, organized groups of neighbors and student groups are eligible to apply.

Neighbors and organizations willing to match funding through cash, in-kind donations and volunteer hours are also eligible.

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

- Building community: Projects that promote the development or sustainability of a neighborhood association or community group. Activities that foster diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Community improvement projects: Projects that improve shared space within a neighborhood or strengthen community identity. This may include landscape improvements and maintenance, natural features management, benches, painting, or certain exterior improvements. Bonus points will be awarded if two or more groups work together on a project.
- Livability initiatives: Projects that provide educational and outreach opportunities that strengthen social connections between neighbors or neighborhoods. This may include improving safety, ad-



A matching grant helped pay for a message board in East Rockville.

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

Radon Reminders: The Law, The Risks and What You Can Do

January is National Radon Action Month and a reminder of what you can do to protect your home and family.

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

Laws that went into effect in 2023 apply Montgomery County's home energy disclosure and radon testing laws to the sale of single-family homes and townhomes in Rockville and require specific rental properties to be tested for radon. The laws provide residents with access to important home health and energy information. The goal is to protect public health from radon exposure and promote home energy efficiency, an objective of the city's Climate Action Plan.

The City of Rockville is giving away a limited number of radon test kits to city residents. Reservations for a free test kit, a link to discounted \$3 kits and more can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/radon.

The test involves placing a small measuring device in the middle of the basement or lowest level of your home, raised 3 feet off the ground for two to four days, then following directions in the kit for mailing the device to a laboratory for results.

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

Community Organizations Invited to Apply for Grants

The City of Rockville provides grants annually to local organizations that partner with the city to enhance quality of life for Rockville residents.

Nonprofits assisting with contemporary challenges or issues impacting Rockville residents are welcome to apply.

Applications are being accepted for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025).

To be eligible for a grant, organizations must provide services to Rockville residents and complete an online application.

Find an online application at www.rockvillemd.gov/2079/Community-Organization-Grant. Applications are due by 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8.

For more information, contact Abe Bruckman at abruckman@rockvillemd.gov.

Applicants will have the opportunity to speak in support of their grant request at a public hearing for the city's budget in spring 2024. ✚

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





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 Rocktoberfest; and City of Rockville Farmers Market. **ON INSTAGRAM:** @city_of_rockville, @rockvillerec and @rockvillecitypolice. **ON X (FORMERLY TWITTER):** @Rockville411 and @RockvilleCityPD. **ONLINE:** Rockville Reports.com.



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mashton@rockvillemd.gov



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Councilmember Izola (Zola) Shaw
240-314-8297 • ishaw@rockvillemd.gov



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

FY 2023 Financial 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 2023, which closed June 30, the city ended "with an overall net position of \$345.2 million, an increase of 5 percent over last year," Stacey Webster, the city's chief financial officer, 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, charges for services revenues, and tax duplication revenues, coupled with conservative spending across City departments and programs," Webster wrote.

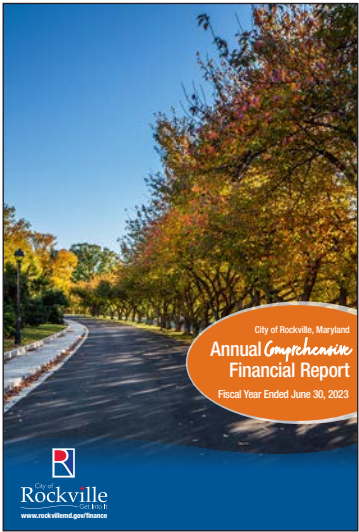
That left the city with a general fund reserve of \$27.6 million, equal to 29.4% of the FY 2023 general fund adopted revenue. The general fund is the main source of funding for the city's day-to-day operations.

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 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, which was presented to the Mayor and Council on Dec. 4. The ACFR is prepared by the Finance Department in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and audited by certified public accountants.

The FY23 PAFR describes:

- The 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 report also lists city accomplishments and accolades, and spotlights capital investment in the Vision Zero Action Plan. The plan, adopted by the Mayor and Council in 2020, seeks to eliminate traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries, and increase traffic safety for all modes of transportation.

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. 4 meeting listing.

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

Mayor and Council Discuss Budget Priorities, Promote Multilingual Community Surveys

The Mayor and Council continued their work on the city's Fiscal Year 2025 budget in December with the first discussion of their priorities and urge community members to get involved in the process by identifying their own priorities through an online budget survey.

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

A discussion on Dec. 4 gave the new Mayor and Council their first opportunity to discuss their priorities. Find video of the discussion with the Dec. 4 meeting

listing at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

The \$157.2 million budget for Fiscal Year 2024, 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 info, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget or call 240-314-8400. 🍀

FY25 BUDGET AT-A-GLANCE

- **March:** Proposed budget available on www.rockvillemd.gov/budget (Friday, March 1). A presentation of the city manager's proposed FY25 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program. Public hearing and work session.
- **April:** Public hearing and work session. Close of budget survey and budget public record (Friday, April 12). Work session.
- **Monday, May 6:** Adoption.
- **Monday, July 1:** FY25 begins.

Note: Budget calendar dates are subject to change.

Rockville Recognized for Excellent Financial Reporting

Rockville was proud to accept, for the 33rd year in a row, the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for Fiscal Year 2022 from the Government Finance Officers Association.

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 at left.) GFOA evaluates the re-

ports for information they present, reader appeal, understandability, distribution and other elements.

Staff is confident the Fiscal Year 2023 report will earn this distinction again. 🍀

► SPEAK UP ◀

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

Call 1-866-921-6714

Email rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca
Visit www.integritycounts.ca/org/rockvillemd

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse.

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

Meetings Schedule:
Mondays, Jan. 8 and 22 at 7 p.m.
Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details. The Jan. 8 meeting will be preceded by drop-in sessions with Mayor Monique Ashton and Councilmember Barry Jackson, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

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.

While some meetings are canceled, other board and commission meetings will take place virtually. See times and dates, and ways to participate on the city's online calendar: www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.

- **Jan. 10 and 24** Planning Commission 7 p.m. (*To participate, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter*.)

- Vacancies**
- The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:
- Community Policing Advisory Board (2)
 - Cultural Arts Commission (1)
 - Education Commission (1)
 - Environment Commission (2)
 - Human Rights Commission (1)
 - Planning Commission (2)
 - Senior Citizens Commission (1)
 - Rockville Housing Enterprises (2)
- For more, 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.

Don't Go Hungry: Senior Center to Host Mobile Market

The Mobile Market returns from 2-4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, to the back parking lot of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. The Capital Area Food Bank Mobile Market program provides fresh produce to local communities in need, free of charge. Intended to support members of the community at risk of hunger, there are no income requirements or other qualifications — food is provided to anyone who attends a Mobile Market distribution. Learn more at www.capitalareafoodbank.org/what-we-do/direct-food-distribution-programs/mobile-markets/.

Volunteer to Shovel Snow for a Neighbor City Pairs Helpers with Seniors

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 info 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 info about Rockville's snow removal policies.

Recycling Reminders: Christmas Trees and 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 clean up from the holidays and year-round. Place Christmas 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. Or, recycle branches and needles by using them as ground cover under trees and shrubs or chopping them up and adding them to a compost pile. 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. For bulk-waste disposal info, 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 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 at bit.ly/howtorecyclesharps.

Got a city recycling or trash cart that's falling apart? Call 240-314-8568. We'll replace it for you. Find a store that accepts plastic bags for recycling. Visit bit.ly/howtorecyclebags.

Nominate a Neighbor for an Environmental Excellence Award

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. 16 for awards to be presented during Earth Month in April:

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

Eligible individuals must live, work or study within the city. Eligible organizations must have an office in Rockville or must be able to demonstrate significant operations within the city limits. Building projects considered as part of a nomination must be within the city. The awards are presented to an individual or organization by the Mayor and Council. Nominations and supplemental materials are received by the Environment Commission, which review the materials and recommend awards to the Mayor and Council. For more information about the award categories and guidelines, application forms and eligibility, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/environment/awards, email environment@rockvillemd.gov, or call 240-314-8870.



Thinking Green is Nice When Removing Snow and Ice

Follow these tips to keep your sidewalks and driveway snow- and ice-free, while minimizing 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 fore-

cast 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.

Be In-the-Know When It Snows Quick Links, Facts and Phone Numbers

When winter weather strikes, turn to the city's website at www.rockvillemd.gov. Closure and snow emergency information will be available on the website, as well as through Facebook (www.facebook.com/cityofrockville) and X, formerly Twitter (@rockville411), and by signing up for Alert Rockville notifications at www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts. City crews treat and plow 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. Check if an address is within the city limits with 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
Dept. of Public Works ...	240-314-8500
Water Main Breaks/	
Sewer Line Overflows ...	240-314-8567
Rec. Programs	
Cancellation Line	240-314-5023
Montgomery Co. Hypothermia Alerts	
(report safety concerns for people or pets)	301-279-8000
Report a Downed Tree ..	240-314-8700
Rockville City Hall	240-314-5000
Rockville City Police Department	
(non-emergency)	240-314-8900
Report a Power Outage	
or Downed Wire	1-877-737-2662

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.

SIGN UP

FOR THE CITY'S MANY NEWSLETTER:

from environment to our newest volunteer news!

www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters

Connect with us on Social Media.

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."

Recycle the Holidays (But Be Careful with Batteries)

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 4 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. ❖



City of Rockville
Get Into It

Department of Public Works
Environmental Management Division
www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash • 240-314-8568

BATTERIES CAN SPARK OR EXPLODE

DO NOT put batteries with recycling or trash.

Take all batteries to the Shady Grove Transfer Station, 16101 Frederick Road in Derwood (www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/dropoff) or a battery recycler for special disposal.





SAFETY STAR ... Jamie Sydykova (pictured at right) was one of 36 professionals honored at the National Safety Council's Rising Stars of Safety Awards in October during the NSC Safety Conference & Expo in New Orleans.

The awards recognize leaders younger than 40 who promote continuous safety improvement and initiatives focused on measurable outcomes to create safer workplaces. "These 36 safety leaders, representing eight countries and a wide range of industries, are truly the best and brightest in safety," said Lorraine Martin, president and CEO of the National Safety Council (pictured at left).

Sydykova, a safety specialist with the city's Department of Human Resources and a board-certified safety professional, is responsible for the day-to-day management of the city's occupational safety and health and workers' compensation programs, keeping city employees safe on the job and, if necessary, providing support for injured employees through the workers' compensation process.



Why Bike Lanes? More 'Complete Streets' and Benefits for All Road Users

Recent changes created new traffic patterns in Rockville Town Center and frustration for some road users.

Construction last year on North Washington Street and East Middle Lane converted two motor vehicle travel lanes on each street into one lane in each direction, added new protected bike lanes using precast concrete curbs and bike boxes along North Washington Street, widened the sidewalk along East Middle Lane, and added new on-street parking spaces. It also left some road users baffled at what all the new lines, curbs and colors mean. (See the article at right to learn how motorists can use the roadway safely.)

Rockville recognizes that change is hard. In this case, change is good. This Complete Streets approach can help move the city towards the goals of Vision Zero, a plan adopted by the Mayor and Council to eliminate traffic-related deaths and serious injuries. Complete Streets benefit all people, not just bicyclists, by:

- Reducing crash risk by facilitating more predictable movements for motorists and bicyclists.
- Providing a dedicated space for people to bicycle at their preferred speed without having to navigate motor vehicle traffic.
- Increasing pedestrians' comfort and safety by widening the buffer between motor vehicle lanes and sidewalks and reducing the number of lanes to cross.
- Reducing opportunities for speeding vehicles.
- Reducing automobile-related noise and pollution from fuel emissions, brakes and tires.
- Increasing economic activity, according to a study by the National Institute for Transportation and Communities. (Read it at bit.ly/NITCStreetStudy.)
- Increasing motorists' awareness of other roadway users.
- Reducing crash risk between bicyclists, scooter riders and pedestrians.
- Providing more transportation options and freedom of choice. ❖

Learn more about Vision Zero and the associated improvement projects at www.rockvillemd.gov/VisionZero and more about biking in Rockville at www.rockvillemd.gov/bicycling.



LEARN MORE ON ROCKVILLE 11

www.youtube.com/cityofrockville

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 pre-register for the free program by Friday, Feb. 16.

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. Preregistration is required to be eligible to participate in the TERRIFIC Bike Award program.

Register for course #29553 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

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

Tips for Driving Safely in Town Center

The City of Rockville's Traffic and Transportation Division offers the following tips for safe driving on Rockville Town Center's newly redesigned roadway:

- Travel in the designated lane for motor vehicles, not in the bike lane or parking lane.
- Before turning at an intersection or a driveway, check for approaching bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Do not attempt to pass a bus at a bus stop while passengers are boarding or exiting the bus.
- Drive at the posted speed limit.
- Do not park, even temporarily, in the bike lane.
- Look for new on-street parking spaces on North Washington Street and East Middle Lane.

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

Attention Dog Owners



Your dog did his duty, please do yours.

Clean up after your dog.



shop small savings card



Wallet

UNLOCK DISCOUNTS AT ROCKVILLE BUSINESSES

SUPPORT LOCAL SCHOOLS AND NONPROFITS



WWW.ROCKVILLEREWARDS.COM



MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ... Now on Rockville 11's YouTube channel, (youtube.com/cityofrockville): Rockville 11 recaps the tree and menorah lightings in Rockville Town Square; the Rockville Chorus is recognized; and Human Rights Day is declared.



Grow Greener with Your Own Rockville Garden Plot

Got what it takes to grow your own? The City of Rockville has 176 garden plots, measuring 25-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. 8. The program runs from Monday, April 1 to Sunday, Nov. 17.

The cost per plot is \$75 for Rockville residents and \$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.

Glenview-Peerless to Present 'Great Escapes: Journeys on Maryland's Underground Railroad'

Join Peerless Rockville and historian Anthony Cohen this month as the Glenview Mansion and Peerless Rockville Speaker Series presents a lecture and preview of the upcoming book "Great Escapes: Journeys on Maryland's Underground Railroad."

The presentation, at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11 at Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, is free to attend.

A project of The Menare Foundation, Inc. and Heritage Montgomery, the book explores the people, places and social forces that created a pathway to freedom, forged by self-emancipating slaves and their allies from the 1830s to the brink of the Civil War. A question-and-answer session will follow the illustrated presentation.

Open to all; space is limited. Preregistration is highly recommended at www.peerlessrockville.org or with course #28500 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

'Grapes' and Gallery Shows, This Month at the Civic Center

Rockville Civic Center Park, home to the historic Glenview Mansion and F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, is located at 603 Edmonston Drive.

Rockville Little Theatre presents "The Grapes of Wrath" 8 p.m. Jan. 26 and 27 and Feb. 2 and 3; 2 p.m. Jan. 28 and Feb. 4.

This quintessential American story of hope and survival follows the Joad family's epic journey from the Dust Bowl of Oklahoma to the promised land of California. A soaring affirmation of the human spirit, "The Grapes of Wrath" provides the perfect canvas for an examination of a nation in search of itself. By Frank Galati, from the novel by John Steinbeck.

Directed by John Bartowiak and Pauline Griller-Mitchell.

Tickets cost \$22, \$20 for students and seniors. For more information, visit fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/Grapes.

Now Showing at the Glenview Art Gallery

The City of Rockville's Arts Division and the Rockville Art League present "Portraits: Creatures Great or Small," a show of varied media, on exhibit from Sunday, Jan. 21 through Friday, Feb. 16.

Meet the artists 1:30-3:30 p.m. Jan. 21.

The ADA-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. ❄️

Long-Term Insurance, Joy and Posture, This Month at the Senior Center

Stay healthy, informed and entertained with seminars and events from the Rockville Senior Center to see in the New Year.

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.

Better Breather's Club

Meets monthly. Educational tips and special programs for respiratory issues, facilitated by American Lung Association instructor Kerri Donnelly.

Register with course #29759. 1-2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18. Free.

Stress Reduction/Meditation

Offers the tools to focus, relax and come to a more peaceful sense of being, with time for meditation and discussion. Presented by Betty Figlure, who has taught meditation, guided imagery and stress reduction classes for more than 30 years.

Register with course #29760. Mondays, Jan. 8-March 25. \$30 members, \$40 nonmembers. Hybrid.

Long-Term Care Insurance

Aging can lead to chronic health or cognitive illnesses, increasing the need for long-term and extended care. Mark Gottlieb, a long-term care specialist, will discuss planning for the challenges and costs of long-term care, including services, funding, Medicaid and already-owned policies.

Register with course #29769. 1-2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11. Free. Hybrid.

Taking Your Life with Joy to the Next Level

Explore how thoughts influence feelings and how people respond to us based on behaviors. Topics include self-management, self-talk/assertiveness, challenging irrational behaviors, goal setting and the mind-body connection. Presented by Dr. Sherlynn Shakir, owner of Sahirah Family Wellness Center, who holds doctorates in clinical psychology and acupuncture.

Register with course #29785. 1-2 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 9-Feb. 13. \$35 members/\$40 nonmembers. Hybrid.

The Benefits of Good Posture

Discover how proper alignment improves health, boosts confidence and enhances overall well-being with practical tips and exercises. Presented by Dr. Carlos Martinez, the director of CAM Physical Therapy.

Register with course #28990. 1-2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10. Free. Hybrid. ❄️

Your Adventure Awaits with Rockville's 2024 Summer Camps

Rockville's 2024 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. 30 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 at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, 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 Monday, June 24 until mid-August. Park Adventure features swimming, field trips and a variety of games, crafts, water activities and outdoor playtime.

Specialized camps include cooking, drama, STEAM, gymnastics and art. New pottery camps and basketball 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 2024" guide at www.rockvillemd.gov/life, beginning Monday, Jan. 29. ❄️



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

CONNECT THEM WITH US!

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

Call 240-314-8800.
Email SeniorCenter@rockvillemd.gov.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/397/Services.



2024

New Year's Rockin' Around the Senior Center

Rockville Senior Center
Thursday, Jan. 4, 2-4 p.m.

In this progressive appetizer event, visit rooms throughout the center, discover appetizers, drinks and desserts, then kick off the New Year!

Register with course #30349 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration
\$8 members/\$12 nonmembers

WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING THIS MONTH? Happy New Year, Rockville! Here we are in 2024 (the Year of the Dragon, according to the Chinese zodiac). 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 glaucoma, 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.
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: Offering both Virtual and In Person
F Facebook Live Event



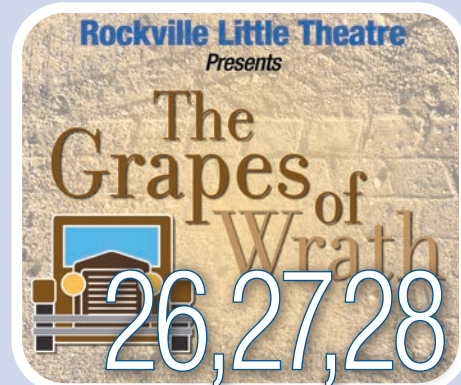
4



11



18



26,27,28

1,15 CITY GOVERNMENT CLOSED See article on page 1.

1 **FAMILIES OUTSIDE: FIRST DAY HIKE** Explore the John Hayes Forest Preserve habitats with naturalist-led nature outings that help you and your family enjoy the wonders surrounding the center. Adults and children must register and all children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 3 and older. Dress for the weather. Register with course #30239. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

4 **H FITNESS WORKSHOP: WINTER HEALTH IS WEALTH** Winter-specific fitness and wellness tips to stay active all winter long. Navigate winter roadblocks to your health goals. Register with course #29832. 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. **SR**

4 **NEW YEAR'S ROCKIN' AROUND THE ROCKVILLE SENIOR CENTER** In this progressive appetizer event, visit rooms throughout the center, discover appetizers, drinks and desserts, then kick off the new year! Register with course #30349. 2-4 p.m. \$8 M/\$12 NM. **SR**

5 **V NEW YEAR'S TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD** College students share worldwide experiences and traditions associated with the start of the new year. Presented by Central Michigan University: Museum of Cultural and Natural History. Register with course #29569. 1-2 p.m.

8,22 **H MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETINGS** See right-side column on page 3. 7 p.m. **CH**

8 **BECOMING A NEW NATION: 1770** Explore the road to the American Revolution. Register with course #29470. 10:30-11:30 a.m. **SR**

9 **PAINTING WITH CATHY: WINTER WONDERLAND PLATTER** Instructor Cathy Pasquariello brings instructions and supplies. No painting experience is required. Hand paint a snowflake platter, then add your favorite cake or holiday cookies as a final touch. Register with course #29467. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **SR**

10 **TRAFFICKING 101** There are two main types of human trafficking: sex and labor. The Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force teaches how to identify human trafficking and how this crime is covered by Maryland laws. Register with course #29796. 10-11 a.m. **SR**

10 **V THE BENEFITS OF GOOD POSTURE** Explore the numerous advantages of good posture. Discover how proper alignment can improve health, boost confidence and enhance overall well-being. Learn practical tips and exercises and reap the benefits of better posture in daily life. Presented by Dr. Carlos Martinez, director, CAM Physical Therapy. Register with course #28990. 1-2 p.m.

11 **MEAT FOR THE FUTURE** Is lab-grown meat safe? Does it taste good? Is it as nutritious as regular meat? Is it expensive? Slaughter-free meat is likely to become a trend in the future. Two companies in the U.S. recently received government approval to start production and sales. Register with course #29478. 11 a.m.-noon. **SR**

11 **LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE** Aging can lead to chronic health or cognitive illnesses, increasing the need for long-term and extended care. Long-term care specialist Mark Gottlieb discusses planning for the challenges and costs of long-term care. 1-2 p.m. Register with course #29769. **SR**

11 **V PHOTOGRAPHY: WHAT MAKES A GOOD PICTURE?** An introduction to the science and art of photography. Explore what makes an interesting photograph through the works of con-

temporary and historical photographers in the Cleveland Museum of Art collection. Register with course #29574. 1-2 p.m.

11 **GLENVIEW MANSION-PEERLESS ROCKVILLE SPEAKER SERIES: GREAT ESCAPES** See article on page 6. 7-8 p.m. **GM**

12 **MATISSE** Draw with scissors like the artist Matisse. When Matisse became unable to paint, he used scissors and painted paper to make new designs. Register with course #28724. 12:30-2:30 p.m. **SR**

13 **DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION** Rockville High School, 2100 Baltimore Road. Free and open to all. See article on page 1. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

15 **MLK DAY OF SERVICE TRAIL CLEANUP** In memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., participate in the National Day of Service and help improve your community and the environment. Each participant will receive gloves, a garbage bag and a set of trash pickers to use for the morning. Return the trash pickers to receive a Student Service Learning form. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Space limited. Registration required. Ages 11 and older. Register with course #30238. 10 a.m.-noon. **CC**

18 **FLUID PAINTING COASTERS** Explore a painting technique that doesn't require a brush. Make four coasters, perfect for a gift or to enjoy in your own home. All supplies and instruction are included in the fee. Register with course #29507. 10-11:30 a.m. **SR**

20 **LITTLE EXPLORERS** Is your little one curious about nature? Join a naturalist for crafts, hands-on sensory activities, games, stories, hikes and more, all with a nature theme. Preregistration required. Ages 2-5. Register with course #30232. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

24 **OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB** Spend an hour investigating and learning about nature. Each meeting, play games, perform experiments and explore the forest preserve. Dress for the weather — a majority of the time is spent outside. Ages 6-11. Register with course #30246. 4:30-5:30 p.m. **CC**

25 **V INSECTS IN WINTER** Except for a few that migrate, most of the insects seen in the spring, summer and fall are still around in the winter in some form. Where are they and how do they survive the cold? Presented by Royal Botanical Gardens of Canada. Register with course #29572. 1-2 p.m.

25 **POST-ELECTION MEETING** See article on page 8. 7-9 p.m. **CH**

26,27,28 **ROCKVILLE LITTLE THEATRE PRESENTS "THE GRAPES OF WRATH"** See article on page 6. **FSF**

29 **WHO INVENTED THAT? POTATO CHIPS AND SACCHARIN** Explore the history of two accidental inventions. In 1853, at Moon Lake Lodge, a chef came up with potato chips. In 1878, a Russian chemist accidentally tasted the chemicals he was working on and found them sweet. The chemical reaction created saccharin. Register with course #29475. 10:30-11:30 a.m. **SR**

30 **STORYTELLING WITH ERIN: SHARING OUR WHY** As we age, our purpose changes, not simply because our roles evolve from student to staffer to grandparent, but because our idea of what "purpose" means changes, too. Discuss how we find meaning in our lives. Register with course #29702. 5:30-6:30 p.m. **SR**

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

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

VISION ZERO
ROCKVILLE

WHAT IS VISION ZERO?

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

Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/visionzero

Vision Zero is a strategy for a safer community.

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

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, email: hcd@rockvillemd.gov or call: 240-314-8300.

www.rockvillemd.gov/communityservices

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Save the Date for Rockville's Lunar New Year Celebration

Celebrate Rockville's Asian cultures with performances, interactive displays, kids' crafts and to-go snack boxes at the city's Lunar New Year celebration.

The annual celebration will be held from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 17, at Rockville High School, 2100 Baltimore Road. Multicultural performances begin at 10:30 a.m. and include dancing, drumming, martial arts, singing and instrumental performances. Admission is free.

In its 16th 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 Dragon on the Chinese Zodiac calendar.

Visit rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear for more information.



There is hope.

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



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE



Croydon Creek Nature Center BIRD SEED SALE

A variety of types of feed available! Supply your feeder. Help wildlife survive the winter.

SALE BEGINS: Monday, Jan. 1

ORDER DEADLINE: Friday, Jan. 26

ORDER PICK-UP: Saturday, Feb. 10, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Order online at www.rockvillemd.gov/birdseedsale
Email ccnc@rockvillemd.gov

Post-Election Forums to Be Held in January and February

The City of Rockville Board of Supervisors of Elections will host two post-election forums in the coming months to discuss Rockville's 2023 vote-by-mail election.

Forums will be held in the Mayor and Council chambers at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25 and from 10 a.m.-noon on a yet-to-be determined Saturday in February.

These meetings are the first step in the planning process for the 2027 election. Members of the public

are welcome to attend, though the board would particularly appreciate input from 2023 candidates and campaign treasurers in evaluating the elections process.

In preparation for the meeting, attendees are encouraged to review Chapter 8 of the City Code. It can be found at bit.ly/CityCodeCh8 or by calling the City Clerk's Office.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Judy Penny at jpenny@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8280. 🌸



LIGHTING UP THE HOLIDAY SEASON ... The Mayor and Council joined community members in December for holiday celebrations that included a holiday tree lighting and a menorah lighting to celebrate the season at Rockville Town Square, and issued a proclamation declaring the city's observance of Kwanzaa (above). Rockville II takes you to all the holiday festivities. Visit youtube.com/cityofrockville.



Help the Rockville City Police Department Take the Plunge
at the Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge
Friday, Feb. 2 • Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis

Pledge in Support of Rockville's Plunge Team and Support Special Olympics Maryland at:
support.somd.org/team/539762.



PRAISE FOR PIERZCHALA ... The Mayor and Council recognized Mark Pierzchala (shown at center with the Mayor and Council and his wife, Lesley Cross, fourth from left) and presented him a key to the city for his service as a Rockville councilmember. The recognition noted that Pierzchala "has served the City of Rockville with distinction for many years, and his knowledge of city issues and his compassion for the residents of Rockville are without equal." To view the presentation, visit youtube.com/cityofrockville and search "Pierzchala."

Lock It or Lose It!: Tips for Preventing Thefts from Vehicles

Thefts from vehicles continue to be an issue in Rockville with the majority of cases due to cars being left unlocked.

In 2023, there were 147 reports of theft from vehicles around the city. Don't become a victim. Follow these tips to deter criminals and protect your property:

- Lock vehicle doors. Check to be sure you've closed the windows.
- Don't leave valuables in your vehicle. If you must leave valuables, make sure they are locked in the trunk. Don't leave them in plain sight.
- Don't leave your garage door opener in plain sight inside of your vehicle. Put it in the glove box, hide it or bring it with you.
- Park in well-lit areas

whenever possible.

- Remember: briefcases, backpacks, gym bags, sunglasses, keys and small change are all tempting to a thief.
- If you see someone in your yard, driveway or lurking near vehicles, especially overnight and in the very early morning hours, do not attempt to confront or detain them. Immediately call 911.
- If your vehicle is broken into, immediately contact city police to make a report at 240-314-8900. Documenting every theft from a vehicle is an important step toward stopping crime.

Do your part to stop thefts from vehicles occurring in our city. Remember: **Lock it or lose it!** 🌸

LOCK IT OR LOSE IT!

Thefts from vehicles are up. Most cases are due to vehicle doors being left unlocked. Deter criminals. Don't forget to lock your vehicle doors.

Report thefts: 240-314-8900
www.rockvillemd.gov/police



Get Into It

Acting City Manager: Craig L. Simoneau
Director of Communication: Katherine Kirk-Dantzler
Asst. Director of Communication: Sean Sedam
Public Information Specialist: Cliff Cumber

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

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.



BACK IN THE DAY ... "As 1980s Begin Development Activity Strong in Rockville," reported the Jan. 1980 edition of the city's newsletter. It devoted a full front page to projects such as the National Capital Research Park and the Plaza 270 Office Center on Research Boulevard, and a consolidation of General Motors offices on Piccard Drive in the Interstate 270 corridor; the Park Court Building, Jefferson Park Townhouse Offices, Pettit Building, Washington Square Office Center and North Adams Law Center in Rockville Town Center; and the first of five buildings in the Red Gate Industrial Park on Taft Court.