



RockvilleReports

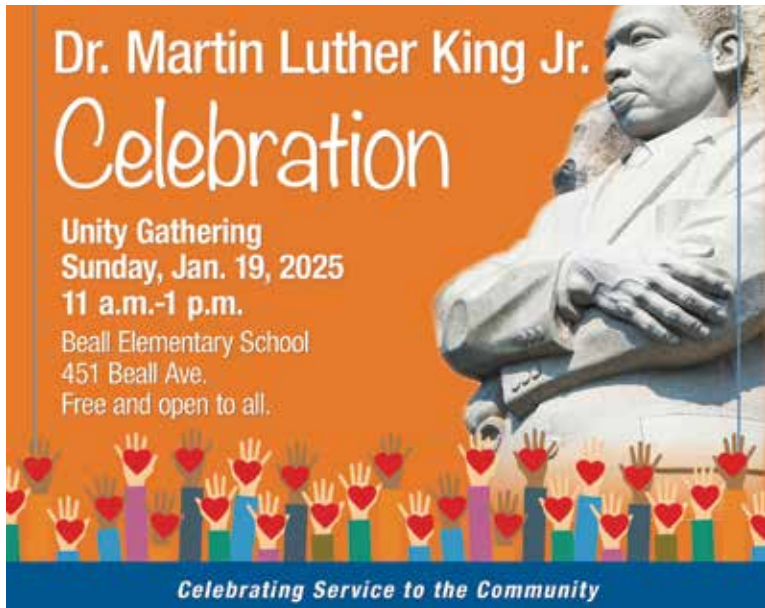
JANUARY 2025 • VOL. 70 #1

HAPPY
NEW YEAR

2025

FROM THE CITY OF ROCKVILLE

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Rockville to Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. With Service and Unity

Rockville will honor Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and legacy as the city holds its 53rd annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration this month with a unity gathering and service activities at sites across the city.

A free unity gathering will be held from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19 at Beall Elementary School, 451 Beall Ave. It will feature a dialogue with community and faith leaders, a light lunch, fellowship and information about how to get involved with the event's nonprofit participants.

King 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 sponsoring service activities in which the community can participate. (Some of these activities are weather dependent and may be rescheduled.) They are:

- Assembling "Cups of Cheer" for seniors with hot chocolate, tea packets and treats in a mug with a handwritten note.
- Assembling house kits with essential items, such as toiletries, in reusable bags for people in housing transition.
- Creating winter care kits with items like gloves, lip balm, hand sanitizer and a handwritten note for community members in need.
- Weed Warrior invasive plant pulls at city parks.
- A trail cleanup.

Register to participate in a service activity and learn more about the unity gathering at www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk. ✚

City Honors Employees for Service

The City of Rockville held its annual employee awards ceremony, Thursday, Dec. 12 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

Seventy-five employees, recognized for tenures of five to 50 years, have given 1,160 years of service to Rockville combined.

Ten of those were honored with awards for more than three decades of service. They have a combined 380 years of experience working for the city.

Two employees, Clifton Vann of the Department of Recreation and Parks, and Kenneth Kiser of the Department of Public Works, were recognized with the Bill Mason Award for Outstanding Performance. The award is named for the late William "Bill" Mason, who served as an example of outstanding performance and dedi-

cated service to the City of Rockville.

The award recognizes a hardworking employee who has demonstrated exceptionally high-quality service, straightforwardness, willingness to go the extra mile and exceptional attendance.

Honored for 50 years of service was Fran Jablonski, with the Rockville Senior Center.

Honorees for 45 years were Betty Wisda, with Recreation and Parks; Anita Combs of the City Attorney's Office; and Maj. Michael England, of the Rockville City Police Department.

Thirty-five-year employees recognized were Michael Shipp, of the Department of Public Works; Janet Hare, with Information Technology; and Christine Henry, with Recreation and Parks. ✚



Clockwise from top left: (L-R) Mayor Monique Ashton, Betty Wisda, Councilmember Adam Van Grack. (Center), Maj. Michael W. England, who has retired after 45 years with the Rockville City Police Department. (L-R) City Manager Jeff Mihelich; Fran Jablonski; Ashton.

Find more photos on pg. 2...

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, Wednesday, Jan. 1 and all city facilities except the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will be closed on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, Jan. 20.

During the New Year's holiday week, recycling, trash and yard waste collection will occur Monday and Tuesday as scheduled. Wednesday and Thursday collections will be made one day later than usual. During the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday week, all collections will occur one day later than usual. For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash or call 240-314-8568.

Parking will be free at city-owned meters on Jan. 1 and 20.

On Tuesday, Dec. 31, the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will offer limited services and will close at 4 p.m. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter for details. The Rockville Skate Park will close at 7 p.m. Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm and Twinbrook community centers will be open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 31. Croydon Creek Nature Center will be open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The Rockville Senior Center, including the fitness room, will close at 5 p.m.

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Mayor and Council Continue Work on Draft Town Center Master Plan Update

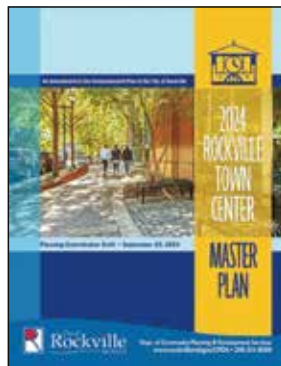
Public Record to Remain Open Until Plan Adoption

The Mayor and Council's work is continuing this month on Rockville's Town Center Master Plan with a work session on Monday, Jan. 6. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The Rockville Planning Commission approved a draft of the Town Center Master Plan in September to forward to the Mayor and Council for their final approval. The Mayor and Council

held a public hearing on the draft plan on Oct. 28, a work session and public hearing on Dec. 9, with an additional work session on Dec. 16.

Video of those meetings



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

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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 recently redesigned roadways:

- 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, East Middle Lane and Beall Avenue.

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

January Hours of Operation

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The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre box office has relocated to the Rockville Civic Center Cottage behind Glenview Mansion while the theater undergoes renovations. Learn more about the renovations at www.rockvillemd.gov/theater. Tickets are always available for purchase at fscottfitzgerald.showare.com.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-5000. ✚

Join Rockville's Youth Mentoring Program and Empower Kids Through Education and Sports

ROCK-KIDZ: Dedicate just one hour a week to mentoring elementary school students, boosting their grades and self-esteem.

Sports Mentors: Coach, mentor, guide and inspire young athletes to greatness.

Make an impact.
Become a youth mentor today!

Questions? Contact C.J. Rucker at crucker@rockvillemd.gov. To apply, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/2075/Mentoring.

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

Vision Zero Brings Better Bus Boarding to Beall and Bike and Pedestrian Counters Citywide

Rockville is rolling — and walking, biking and driving — into the new year with the completion of a major project in Rockville Town Center and new ways to track trips by bike and by foot.



The new bus boarding platform on Beall Avenue.

A new bus boarding platform, installed Nov. 25, is the final piece of the Beall Avenue Complete Streets and Asphalt Art project. The first-of-its-kind project for the city makes Rockville Town Center safer and more attractive for residents, visitors and businesses. It includes traffic-calming features that shorten pedestrian-crossing distances and provides other safety improvements along a new alignment of Beall Avenue between MD 355/Hungerford Drive and North Washington Street. The project created one travel lane in each direction, buffered bicycle lanes and on-street parking and loading spaces, all adorned with new "asphalt art" in the form of a street mural that was dedicated Nov. 10.

Learn more and find Rockville 11's coverage of

the community celebration dedicating the artwork at bit.ly/RkvAsphaltArt.

The city also recently completed the installation of permanent counters to help measure pedestrian and bicycle use on trails throughout Rockville. Five pedestrian and bicycle counters were installed:

- Along the Carl Henn Millennium Trail, between Gaither Road and Piccard Drive.
- Along the Stoneridge shared-use path near Wootton Parkway.
- At the southern entrance of the Sister City Friendship Bridge over Interstate 270 near MD 28/West Montgomery Avenue.
- Along the Twinbrook Connector Trail near Ardennes Avenue.
- Along the Baltimore Road shared-use path near Gladstone Drive.

A bicycle-only counter was installed on northbound North Washington Street near Wood Lane. The devices continuously count pedestrians and bicycles.

The projects are part of the city's Vision Zero Action Plan to eliminate traffic-related deaths and serious injuries. An update on the city's Vision Zero progress is scheduled for the Mayor and Council meeting on Monday, Feb. 3.

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

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 and then following directions in the kit for mailing the device to a laboratory for the 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. ✚

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



2024 Employee Award Celebration Honorees

continued from pg. 1...



Bill Mason Award for Outstanding Performance recipients Kenneth Kiser (L) and Clifton Vann (R) stand with City Manager Jeff Mihelich and Mayor Monique Ashton. The award — which recognizes a hardworking employee who has demonstrated exceptionally high-quality service, straightforwardness, willingness to go the extra mile and exceptional attendance — is named for the late William "Bill" Mason, who served as an example of outstanding performance and dedicated service to the City of Rockville.



CLEANER AND GREENER, THANKS TO LOCAL SCOUTS ... Eleven volunteers from Boy Scouts of America Troop 1094 took part in a conservation project during the Thanksgiving weekend, spending eight hours collecting more than 50 bags of trash from the stream valley areas of King Farm. The city of Rockville — and the environment — says, "Thanks!"



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



Mayor & Council
mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov



Mayor Monique Ashton
240-314-8290
mashton@rockvillemd.gov



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



Councilmember Barry Jackson
240-314-8295 • bjackson@rockvillemd.gov



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



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



Councilmember Marissa Valeri
240-314-8296 • mvaleri@rockvillemd.gov



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

Rockville Recognized for Excellent Financial Reporting

Rockville was proud to accept, for the 34th year in a row, the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for Fiscal Year 2023.

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 the ACFR and PAFR in the article below.) GFOA evaluates the reports for the information they present, reader appeal, understandability, distribution and other elements.

Staff is confident that the Fiscal Year 2024 report will again earn this distinction. 🍀

FY 2024 Financial Reports Highlight Rockville's Finances

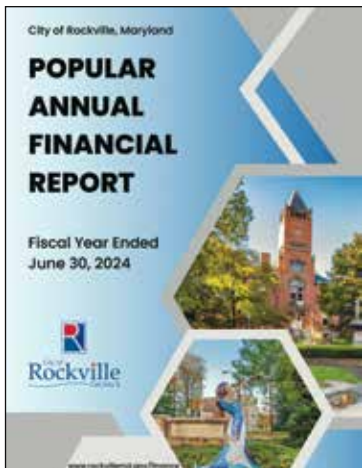
Summaries Give Public a Look at the City's Fiscal Health

Two annual reports approved by the Mayor and Council last month give the public a closer look at Rockville’s financial health during the most recently completed fiscal year.

For Fiscal Year 2024, which closed June 30, the city ended “with an overall net position of \$360 million, an increase of 4.3% over last year,” City Manager Jeff Mihelich 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,” Mihelich wrote.

The city ended the year with a general fund reserve of \$31.2 million, equal to 30.7% of the FY 2024 general fund adopted revenue. The general fund is the

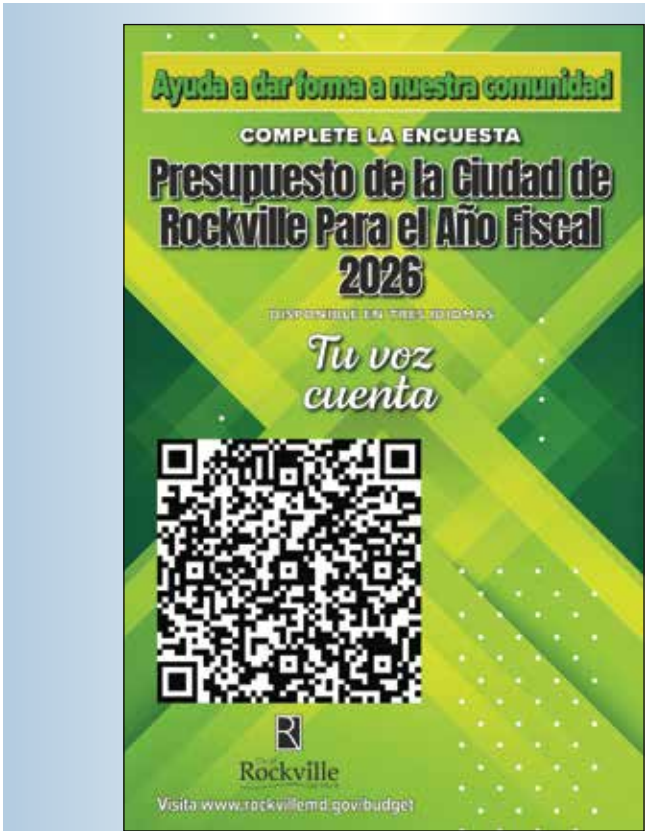


main source of funding for the city’s day-to-day operations.

The city maintains a triple-A bond rating, the highest possible, which 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 since-renamed Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The ACFR is prepared by the Finance Department in accordance with generally accepted accounting

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REPRESENT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD WITH THE CITY’S BUDGET SURVEY ... Public participation in the budget process is a high priority for the Mayor and Council and city staff. That includes having all parts of the city represented in responses to a survey about community priorities for the city’s budget.

The survey can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget. It is available in English, Spanish and Simplified Chinese and takes 5-10 minutes to complete. Responses provide valuable input to the Mayor and Council for their budget discussions. The proposed Fiscal Year 2026 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program will be posted to the city’s website on Friday, March 7. Budget work sessions and public hearings are scheduled for Mondays, March 17 and 24. A work session and the close of the public record is scheduled for Monday, April 14.

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

► 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.

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

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

Meetings Schedule:

Monday, Jan. 6, 13 and 27 at 6:30 p.m. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details. A drop-in session from 5:15-6:15 p.m. with Mayor Monique Ashton and Councilmember Adam Van Grack will precede the Jan. 13 meeting.

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

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

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

Get Involved with the City

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

Boards and Commissions

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

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

- **Jan. 8 and 22** Planning Commission 7 p.m. (To participate, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.)

Vacancies

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

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




City Hall: **240-314-5000**
Police Non-Emergency: **240-314-8900**
24-Hour Utility Emergency Report Hotline: **240-314-8567**
STAY INFORMED: The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil. Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting.

Rockville Readies EV Readiness Plan for January Debut

Rockville's Electric Vehicle Readiness plan is nearly ready for its release. The draft plan is tentatively scheduled to be released Friday, Jan. 10. Community members will be able to read the plan, provide comments and get all their questions answered about EVs and EV charging at engagerockville.com/evplan.

The plan will help identify how the city can work with county, state and federal programs toward rapid adoption of electric vehicles, identifying where EV chargers are needed and recommending actions to support equitable charging access amid a growing demand. That includes identifying policy and permitting needs that communicate the benefits and incentives available, installing grant-funded public chargers, and converting fleet vehicles. Learn more about Rockville's recent efforts to expand its charging network at RockvilleReports.com/rockville-charges-ahead-with-new-ev-stations.

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

Recycle the Holidays (But Be Careful with Batteries)

As 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.
- Don't dispose of batteries 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.



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.





LEARN MORE ON ROCKVILLE 11

www.youtube.com/cityofrockville

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 cleanup 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. As an alternative, 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 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.

Find a grocery store that accepts plastic bags for recycling: Visit bit.ly/howtorecyclebags.

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. ✚



Be Salt-Wise in Winter

Salt on our streets helps keeps us safe in the winter, but too much salt can pose a risk to fish and other wildlife, and humans. Follow these tips to be safe and salt-smart at home:

1. Shovel early and often. Deicers work best for melting thin layers of snow or ice. Shovel first, break up any ice patches and then add deicer.
2. Use less salt. Sprinkle deicer sparingly and evenly, leaving space between the grains. More is not better. A 12-ounce mug of salt is enough to treat a 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares. Consider organic, salt-free and pet-safe deicers.
3. Sweep and reuse. After a weather event, sweep and collect any sand, salt or undissolved deicer. Any excess can be re-used for the next storm. Letting it run off into waterways is harmful to drinking water and wildlife.

Interested in doing more? Join the Salt Watch Community Science Initiative from 1-2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1 at Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road. Learn about road salt and how to moni-

tor a body of water, or even your tap, for road-salt pollution. Learn more and register at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration by selecting the "Croydon Creek Nature Center" tab. **Smart Salt Use by the City of Rockville**

The city's Department of Public Works is working to reduce its overall salt usage while ensuring safe roads.

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

Earlier this year, crews attended a "salt summit," hosted by the city's Environmental Management Division staff that focused on the impacts of salt on waterways — especially the Chesapeake Bay. ✚

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

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

- Carry disposable bags and pick up after your pet, even on trails and in the woods. Make sure your dog walker picks up after your pet when on their walk.
- Properly dispose of pet waste by bagging the waste and depositing it in

a trash can or pet waste receptacle.

- Do not throw bagged pet waste into storm drains or the woods, and do not leave it on the ground.
- Be sure to pick up pet waste on your own property too. Anything washed away by the rain will end up in our streams.
- Reuse bags that would have ended up in the trash to pick up after your pet. Ask co-workers, neighbors and friends to collect plastic bags used for bread, newspapers, bags or produce. ✚

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS

2025 Environmental Excellence Awards

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



Outstanding Individual Environmental Stewardship



Outstanding Achievement in Green Building



Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Practices



Outstanding Environmental Education and Academic Achievement

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

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



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."

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JANUARY 2025 ROCKVILLE REPORTS

Matching Grant Program Seeks Projects to Improve Communities

Deadline for Applications is Jan. 17

The Friday, Jan. 17 deadline is approaching for Rockville's matching grant program, which helps neighbors work together to accomplish common goals that support the health, vitality and inclusivity of the place they call home.

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 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 Abe Bruckman at 240-314-8111 or abruckman@rockvillemd.gov.

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

ROCKVILLE TOWN SQUARE PARKING

2 HOURS OF FREE PARKING



NO VALIDATION REQUIRED





IT'S AS EASY AS

1 SUPPORT

2 SAVE

3 ENJOY

With the purchase of a Rockville Rewards digital card, you support local nonprofits and benefit from exclusive cardholders savings and deals at local businesses!



LEARN MORE AT WWW.ROCKVILLEREWARDS.COM

Volunteer to Shovel Snow for an Elderly Neighbor

City Pairs Helpers with Seniors

Each winter, Rockville looks for ways to help older residents with snow removal.

If you're handy with a shovel and don't mind digging out an extra driveway or clearing a walkway or two, you can sign up and volunteer for the program.

The senior center's home maintenance coordinator organizes the program and can connect you with neighbors in need near your home. What better way to celebrate the season of selfless giving?

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

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

For more information about Rockville Senior Services, call 240-314-8800 or email seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov. When winter weather strikes, turn to the city's website at www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather for information about Rockville's snow removal policies.

When Winter Weather Strikes...

1

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

2

3 STEPS TO SNOW SERENITY

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

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

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

3

OH, WOW! HERE COMES THE SNOW PLOW!

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

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

Next are secondary roads, including:

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

NUMBERS TO KNOW

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

Meet Nature Head-On in the New Year at the Hayes Preserve

Updated Trail Map Available Soon

Have a New Year's resolution to walk more? How about the trails in the Hayes Preserve, which feature hikes for all ages and abilities through some of Rockville's most scenic areas?

An updated trail map will be available from Croydon Creek Nature Center soon. The map details 3 miles of marked trails that feature historic relics, a meandering tributary of Rock Creek and a variety of wildlife.

The preserve is named in memory of John G. Hayes, former superintendent of parks and facilities for the City of Rockville. His contributions to Rockville spanned 30 years and included many special events that are still enjoyed today.

For more information, and to find the trail map, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek. The center is located at 852 Avery Road.

Make a Difference in Your Community

Join a Rockville Board or Commission!



Boards and commissions in the city provide the Mayor and Council with informed thoughts and ideas that help shape Rockville's future.

Learn more at rockvillemd.gov/boards



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



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

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





MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ...

Now on Rockville 11's YouTube channel, (youtube.com/cityofrockville): If you missed the tree lighting ceremony in Rockville Town Square, Rockville 11 takes you there for the flipping of the seasonal switch; the Rockville City Police Department, in collaboration with Montgomery County police, conducted a coordinated traffic safety initiative along MD 355 to make the road safer; and see the Mayor and Council's December proclamations.

The Glenview-Peerless Speaker Series Presents the Marquis de Lafayette

The Marquis de Lafayette will be the focus in the latest installment of the Glenview Mansion and Peerless Rockville Speaker Series.

The free, in-person presentation will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9 at Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive.

Patricia Maclay, a lifetime member of the American Friends of Lafayette and member of its Governing Board, explores Lafayette's 1824-25 farewell tour of America for the 67-year-old Frenchman's triumphant return to the county he loved as the last surviving major general of the American Revolution. His trip covered over 6,000 miles by carriage, stagecoach, canal barge and steamboat, across all 24 existing states and "Washington City." Maclay's presentation will also cover how the tour is being celebrated 200 years later and how everyone will have an opportunity to get involved.

Seating is limited and registration is recommended. Register at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration with course #32189. Learn more at peerlessrockville.org.

Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation Ltd. is supported in part by a grant from the City of Rockville, and funding from Montgomery County Government and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County.

2025's Camps Promise a Summer of Adventure, Memories

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

Information will be online Friday, Jan. 31 at www.rockvillemd.gov/life. Give your kids the gift of unforgettable memories and stories that will last a lifetime.

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

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

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

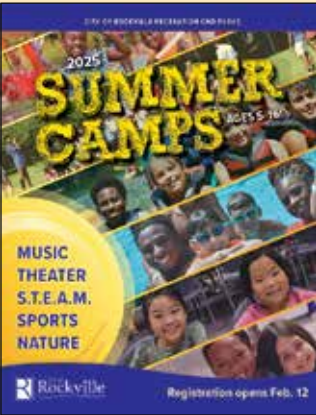
Summer Blast and Park Adventure camps feature swimming, field trips and a variety of games, crafts, water activities and outdoor playtime. Specialized camps include cooking, drama, STEAM, gymnastics and art, and new sewing and music camps have been added.

Teens interested in earning Student Service Learning hours can work as volunteers or take daily trips with Teens on the Go camps.

College and high school students aged 16 or older who are looking to refine their leadership skills can apply for summer camp positions at www.rockvillemd.gov/careers. Camp staff are chosen for their enthusiasm, passion and experience working with children.

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

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/camps for more information and view the "Summer Camps 2025" guide at www.rockvillemd.gov/life, beginning Friday, Jan. 31. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.



Gum Health, Good Posture and Sleeping Soundly, in January at the Senior Center

Stay healthy, informed and entertained with seminars and events 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.

Memory Café

Hosted by the Alzheimer's Association. For more information, contact Laura Byer at 240-844-3608.

Register with course #34102. Noon-1:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6. Free.

Stress Reduction/ Meditation

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

Register with course #34085. 1-2 p.m. Mondays, Jan. 6-March 24. \$40 members/\$50 nonmembers. Hybrid.

Aphasia Support Group

Group support for stroke survivors, particularly those with aphasia.

Register with course #34099. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8. Free.

Laser Gum Therapy and Dental Tips

Dr. Thy Nguyen of Crown Dental will discuss basic dental hygiene and health care, and how LA/NAP laser gum therapy is used for treatments.

Register with course #34088. 1-2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9. Free.

Better Breather's Club

Educational tips for respiratory issues.

Register with course #34086. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16. Free.

The Benefits of Good

Posture: Body Mechanics and Ergonomics

Explore the advantages of maintaining good posture and using proper body mechanics. Learn how alignment can improve health, boost confidence and enhance well-being with practical tips and exercises. Presented by Daniel Lentscher, director of industrial rehab, CAM Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation.

Register with course #34079. 1-2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22. Free.

Is Your Plate Heart Healthy?

Learn how to lower your chance of heart disease by balancing your plate and eating healthily. Presented by Leah Vicente, Humana Marketpoint representative.

Register with course #34083. 1-2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29. Free.

Sleep Smarter: Managing Sleep with Age

Dr. Rachel Salas, assistant medical director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Sleep and Wellness, will discuss factors that impact sleep as we age and managing narcolepsy in older adults. Topics include obstructive sleep apnea, insomnia, circadian rhythm disorders and restless leg syndrome.

Register with course #34085. 1-2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30. Free. Online.

Prioritize Your Well-Being While Caring for Others

Discover essential self-care strategies to focus on your needs while supporting a loved one. Learn mindfulness, time management techniques and nutritional tips to reduce stress and stay energized. Explore vendor resource tables and enjoy free giveaways.

Register with course #34707. 10 a.m.-noon. Friday, Jan. 31. Free.

Find the Rockville Senior Center at 1150 Carnation Drive and online at www.rockvillemd.gov/seniorcenter. ❖

Kindertransport and Varied Art: This Month at the Civic Center

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

Box office operations will continue at the Rockville Civic Center Cottage on Wednesday, Jan. 8, and will sell tickets to off-site performances for the Rockville Little Theatre and the Victorian Lyric Opera Company.

Box office operating hours are 2-6 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. alternate Saturdays.

Friday and Saturday hours are subject to change. Call ahead or check www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre before planning your visit.

Rockville Little Theatre presents "Kindertransport" 8 p.m. Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 7 and 8; 2 p.m. Feb. 2 and 9.

A modern classic, directed by Karen Fleming, about one woman's struggle to come to terms with her past — brutally separated from her German-Jewish parents and brought to England with the promise of a new life. This play examines the life, during

World War II and after, of a Kindertransport child. Though fictitious, it's based on real Kindertransport stories.

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

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

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

Rockville Student Juried Art Exhibit and Rockville Art League Winter Garden Show

Art in varied media will be on exhibit from Jan. 26-Feb. 14 at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery. Meet the artists from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26.

The Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible gallery, on the second floor of Glenview Mansion, is open 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and closed on official city holidays. ❖



AS PRETTY AS A PITCHER ... Rockville's always-busy parks crews have been hard at work across the city, but also in Dogwood Park, at 800 Monroe St., where they recently restored the park's centerpiece statue of Walter "Big Train" Johnson, one of the most accomplished baseball pitchers of all time.

The statue, created by Nickelsville, Virginia-based artist Kris Connors, was installed in the park in 2020. Johnson is buried at the Rockville Cemetery on Baltimore Road with his wife, Hazel Lee Johnson.

Crews also continued field renovations at Dogwood.

Connect with us on Social Media.

WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING THIS MONTH? Happy New Year, Rockville! Here we are in 2025 (the Year of the Snake, 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 Program/Offering
F Facebook Live Event



1



6



20



31

1 FIRST DAY HIKE Explore the habitats of the John Hayes Forest Preserve with naturalist-led outings for you and your family to enjoy the center's wonders. Adults and children must register; children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 3 and older. Register with course #34143. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

2,16 V POSITIVE AGING ALONE A group for seniors living alone. Discuss the joys and challenges of solo senior living and socialize with others. Meets first and third Thursdays. Register with course #34076. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

3,10,17,24,31 V MANAGING STRESS Weekly support group offering coping strategies for isolation, anxiety and loss. Each session begins with a brief meditation. Meets on Fridays. Register with course #34078. Free. 11 a.m.-noon. **SR**

6 MEMORY CAFE Socialize with others experiencing early-stage memory loss. *See article on page 6.* Free. Noon-1:30 p.m. **SR**

6 V SONGKRAN: THE THAI NEW YEAR Celebrate Thailand's New Year with a unique water festival. Presented by Learn Around the World. Register with course #33807. \$7 M/\$10 NM. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

6,13,27 H STRESS REDUCTION/MEDITATION Tools for relaxation and meditation. *See article on page 6.* \$40 M/\$50 NM. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

6 ROCK'IN AROUND THE SENIOR CENTER: CELEBRATE 2025 Explore festivities and food at the Rockville Senior Center. Register with course #34697. \$12 M/\$15 NM. 2-4 p.m. **SR**

7,21 V FRIENDSHIP SKILLS Learn tips for building and strengthening social connections. Meets first and third Tuesdays. Register with course #34077. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

8,18 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. Ages 2-5. Pre-registration is required with course #34131. \$10 R/\$12 NR. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

8 APHASIA SUPPORT GROUP Activities to reduce isolation for stroke survivors with aphasia. Meets monthly. *See article on page 6.* Free. 1:30-2:30 p.m. **SR**

9 H LASER GUM THERAPY AND DENTAL TIPS Learn about dental hygiene, care and treatments with Dr. Thy Nguyen. *See article on page 6.* Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

9 THE STORY OF THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE Patricia Maclay discusses Lafayette's farewell tour. *See article on page 6.* Free. 7-10 p.m. **GM**

13 V COOKING WITH CHEF ALBA: EXCEPTIONAL SALADS Create unique salads with warm elements. Menu includes Greek salad with crispy feta and more. Register with course #33744. \$15 M/\$20 NM. 12:30-2 p.m. **SR**

14,28 V BRAIN GAMES Boost memory and problem-solving skills through interactive games. Meets second and fourth Tuesdays. Register with course #34075. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

14 H SCIENCE TUESDAYS Monthly presentations and discussions with scientists. Meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Register with course #33842. Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

15 SENIOR SCIENTISTS PROGRAM Engaging and empowering seniors in interactive research activities tailored to them. Register with course #34104. Free. 1:30-3 p.m. **SR**

16 BETTER BREATHERS CLUB Educational presentations on lung health and breathing techniques. *See article on page 6.* Free. 1:30-2:30 p.m. **SR**

19 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. UNITY GATHERING *See article on page 1.* 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Beall Elementary School, 451 Beall Ave.

20 MLK DAY OF SERVICE TRAIL CLEANUP *See article on page 1.* Help clean up local trails in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Supplies provided. Ages 8 and older. 10 a.m.-noon. **CC**

21 TAX PLANNING THROUGH FOUR STAGES OF RETIREMENT Strategies and practical tips for pre- and post-retirement tax planning with a focus on what's coming in 2025. Register with course #33798. Free. 10 a.m.-noon. **SR**

22 INTRO TO MAGIC WORKSHOP Learn sleight-of-hand tricks with the School of Magic Arts. Register with course #33753. \$7 M/\$10 NM. 10-11 a.m. **SR**

22 POSTURE: BODY MECHANICS AND ERGONOMICS *See article on page 6.* Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

22 OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB Explore the forest preserve through games and experiments. Sessions meet every other Wednesday through March 19. Ages 6-11. Register with course #34137. \$60 R/\$70 NR. 4:30-5:30 p.m. **CC**

23 BROADWAY DANCE PARTY Dance to Broadway hits and perfect your jazz hands. Register with course #33931. \$7 M/\$10 NM. 3:30-4:45 p.m. **SR**

26 YEAR OF THE SNAKE Celebrate the Year of the Snake with snake crafts and meeting snake ambassadors. Ages 6-12. Register with course #34146. \$8 R/\$10 NM. 1:30-2:30 p.m. **CC**

27 WHO INVENTED THAT? Explore 1920s inventions and their impact on American life with instructor Joan Adams. Register with course #33760. \$7 M/\$10 NM. 10:30-11:30 a.m. **SR**

28 PAINTING WITH CATHY: CUTE AS A BUTTON HEARTS Create a festive heart canvas using buttons. Supplies provided. Register with course #33786. \$13 M/\$16 NM. 10:30 a.m.-noon. **SR**

29 CRITTERS AND COFFEE AT CROYDON CREEK Enjoy coffee and donuts while exploring live animal exhibits and discussing Maryland wildlife. Includes transportation from the Rockville Senior Center. Register with course #33756. \$12 R/\$14 NR. 9:30 a.m.-noon. **SR CC**

29 IS YOUR PLATE HEART HEALTHY? *See article on page 6.* Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

29 HOT AND COLD: THE SCIENCE OF HEAT Explore heat conductivity and its role in various processes. Register with course #33809. \$7 M/\$10 NM. 2-3 p.m. **SR**

30 V SLEEP SMARTER: MANAGING SLEEP WITH AGE Learn sleep strategies from Dr. Rachel Salas, Johns Hopkins Center for Sleep and Wellness. *See article on page 6.* Free. 1-2 p.m.

31 PRIORITIZE YOUR WELLBEING WHILE CARING FOR OTHERS *See article on page 6.* Free. 10 a.m.-noon. **SR**

31 ROCKVILLE LITTLE THEATRE PRESENTS "KINDERTRANSPORT" *See article on page 6.* 8-10 p.m. Bender JCC/Kreeger Auditorium, 6125 Montrose Road.

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

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

Town Center Master Plan Update

continued from pg. 1...

are available at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter by selecting the TV icon next to the meetings' listings.

Four topics in the plan will be discussed more in depth: housing goals; permitted building heights; the bonus height program; and the elimination of minimum parking requirements.

The Mayor and Council will keep the record open for public input and comments until final adoption of the plan, tentatively scheduled for Monday, Jan. 13. To comment, email mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov and copy in comprehensiveplan@rockvillemd.gov.

The overarching goal of the master plan update is to strengthen Town Center by creating a cohesive vision for the planning area, one that meets the city's goals and provides a clear path for implementation.

View the draft, provide feedback and learn about upcoming meetings on the Town Center project page on Engage Rockville. Visit engagerockville.com/towncenter. ✚

✚

FY24 Financial Reports

continued from pg. 3...

principles and audited by certified public accountants.

The FY24 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 report also lists city accomplishments and accolades, and spotlights public safety efforts, including a police-staffing action plan and the Rockville City Police Department's five-year strategic plan.

The PAFR and ACFR are available at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget. To learn more, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter and select the staff report with the Dec. 9 Mayor and Council agenda, or call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. ✚

Free, Reconditioned Bikes for TERRIFIC Kids Who Do Good Deeds

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

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

The TERRIFIC challenge gives free bikes to Rockville residents in grades 1-5 who



fulfill six good deeds, such as volunteering with a charity, picking up litter in a public place or helping someone who is sick or elderly.

Registration opens Tuesday, Jan. 14. Due to the limited number of bicycles, participants must preregister for the free program by Friday, Feb. 14.

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

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

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

Rockville's Lunar New Year Celebration is Feb. 1

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

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

In its 17th year, the Lunar New Year celebration is a source of pride for the city's Asian community and

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

Local nonprofit 501(c) organizations may apply to host a display table at the celebration. Applications must be submitted by Friday, Jan. 10. Find an application form and learn more about the celebration at www.rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear.

Rockville and Region Places 9th in Arts Vibrancy Rankings

The Frederick-Rockville-Gaithersburg region has come in ninth out of 20 large communities ranked as the most arts-vibrant nationwide.

SMU DataArts, the National Center for Arts Research, released its ninth Arts Vibrancy Index in December, which identifies the 40 most arts-vibrant communities in the United States. "Rockville, along with its neighbors Frederick and Gaithersburg has consistently appeared on the Arts Vibrancy Index since the launch of the rankings in 2015," an SMU DataArts news release on the rankings states.

The index analyzes 13 unique measures, including the level of supply, demand and government support for the arts in more than 900 communities across the country. Large communities are those with a population of 1 million or more.

The Frederick-Gaithersburg-Rockville region also scored in the top 2% on measures related to state arts dollars.

Maryland ranked fifth

overall in the nation in SMU DataArts' separate arts vibrancy rankings of all 50 states.

Find out more about the index and the arts communities it analyzes at culturaldata.org/arts-vibrancy-2024/executive-summary.

The top 10 large communities by rank are:

1. San Francisco-San Mateo-Redwood City, California.
2. New York-Jersey City-White Plains, New York-New Jersey.
3. Boston, Massachusetts.
4. Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, District of Columbia-Virginia-Maryland-West Virginia.
5. Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, Minnesota-Wisconsin.
6. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
7. Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin, Tennessee.
8. Newark, New Jersey-Pennsylvania.
9. Frederick-Gaithersburg-Rockville, Maryland.
10. Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown, Texas.



Help the Rockville City Police Department Take the Plunge at the Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge

Friday, Jan. 31 • Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis

Pledge in Support of Rockville's Plunge Team and Support Special Olympics Maryland at: support.somd.org/team/619198.



"ROCKVILLE ROLL CALL" takes a closer look at the Rockville staff members who serve our city. Later this month, Rockville 11 talks with Tara Eggleston Stewart, the new director of the Department of Recreation and Parks.

The Department of Recreation and Parks cares for and maintains 67 parks, three community centers and multiple facilities, including Glenview Mansion and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Social Hall. The department also provides diverse, interesting and high-quality recreational and leisure opportunities throughout the city.

The interview will debut in January. Find "Rockville Roll Call" on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, and at www.youtube.com/cityofrockville.

R11 LEARN MORE ON ROCKVILLE 11 www.youtube.com/cityofrockville



STROKES OF EXCELLENCE ... Congratulations to the Rockville-Montgomery Swim Club, a joint program between the Rockville and Montgomery County recreation departments, for being named by USA Swimming the No. 9 swim team in the United States for 2024 out of 2,800 registered clubs.

RMSC was also recognized as a Gold Medal Club by USA Swimming for the second consecutive year. With more than 2,000 swim teams across the United States, Gold Medal status recognizes the top 1% of those teams.

Find out more about RMSC at rmscswimming.com. For updates, schedules and other information about the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, sign up for the facility's email newsletter at www.rockvillemd.gov/rmsc.

Croydon Creek Nature Center BIRD SEED SALE

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

SALE BEGINS: Wednesday, Jan. 1

ORDER DEADLINE: Friday, Jan. 24

ORDER PICK-UP: Saturday, Feb. 8, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

SIGN UP FOR THE CITY'S MANY NEWSLETTERS – from environment to our newest volunteer news! www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters



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Director of Communication: Katherine Kirk-Dantzler
Asst. Director of Communication: Sean Sedam
Public Information Specialist: Cliff Cumber

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BACK IN THE DAY ... The January 2012 edition of "Rockville Reports" proclaimed that "RedGate Remains City 'Jewel' as Billy Casper Begins Operations." While the first part of the headline stands, some things have changed. RedGate does indeed remain a city jewel — now as a park, after Billy Casper ended its lease to manage the golf course at the end of 2018. Since then, Rockville has reimagined the property as parkland, adopting a vision for the future of its 130-acres in October 2022, and winning rave reviews from residents and visitors alike for its trails, natural habitats and dog park. Read more about it at RockvilleReports.com/vision-for-redgate-park.