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Celebrate the Fourth Safely

The Fourth of July is a time to celebrate. But leave the fireworks to the professionals.

The private use and possession of fireworks, including sparklers, is illegal in Montgomery County and carries a fine of up to \$1,000 and/or six months in jail. Public firework displays require proper permits and insurance.

Fireworks were involved in an estimated 9,700 injuries and eight deaths in 2023 in the United States, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in its 2023 Fireworks Annual Report. Of those, an estimated 6,400 injuries (66%) took place in the weeks surrounding the July Fourth holiday.

Find the CPSC report and tips for firework safety at www.cpsc.gov/fireworks.

Learn more about fireworks in Montgomery County at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcfrs-info/tips/citizens/fireworks.html.

To report illegal fireworks, call the Rockville City Police Department's non-emergency line at 240-314-8900.

Free Financial Empowerment Workshops Offered in July

Rockville is offering a free four-part financial empowerment series this July as part of the BankOn Rockville program to help residents strengthen their money management skills and prepare for future financial goals.

BankOn is an initiative that connects low- to moderate-income residents to safe and affordable bank accounts, increases their financial capability, and provides more pathways to economic self-sufficiency.

Each workshop will be held virtually from 5-6:30 p.m.

Topics include:

- **Tuesday, July 8:** Banking.
- **Thursday, July 10:** Budgeting Basics and Understanding Credit.
- **Tuesday, July 22:** Budgeting During a Crisis.
- **Thursday, July 24:** Becoming a Homeowner.

For more information and to register, contact Tawana Seigler-King, a housing and landlord-tenant specialist with the Department of Housing and Community Development, at 240-314-8315 or tsking@rockvillemd.gov.

Landlord-Tenant Code Update Moves Forward

Rockville's Department of Housing and Community Development is continuing work on updating the city's landlord-tenant code.

A draft of the updated code is expected to be released in early fall, followed by work sessions with the Mayor and Council.

In May, the city hosted virtual listening sessions with landlords and tenants to gather feedback. This summer, more than 1,000 tenants were contacted directly through door-to-door outreach to discuss housing-related concerns. These conversations will help inform the drafting process.

For background on the project or to share feedback, visit engagerockville.com/landlord-tenant-code-rewrite, where visitors can find a survey, comment box and question portal. Residents can also sign up for updates on the process as it moves forward.

Zoning Ordinance Rewrite Meeting to Focus on Parking, Use Standards

Rockville has been busy working on the zoning ordinance rewrite throughout the summer, with meetings soliciting public input on the process.

The rewrite seeks to modernize the city's zoning regulations through updates to the text of the zoning ordinance and revisions to the zoning map.

A virtual community meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 31 will focus on parking and use standards, similar to discussions scheduled for the Monday, July 21 Mayor and Council and Wednesday, July 23 Planning Commission meetings. Register at bit.ly/ZORjuly31.

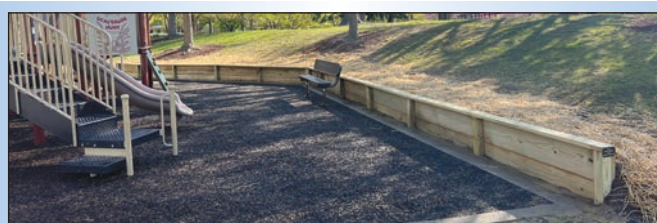
The rewrite aligns with goals outlined in the Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan, which guides the city's long-term growth and development. The proposed changes aim to ensure that Rockville's zoning regulations support the

community's vision for the future. As the text of the zoning ordinance is updated, the city's zoning map will also be updated and certain properties rezoned through a comprehensive map amendment. The proposed rezonings won't be the topic of this meeting.

Residents and neighborhood associations interested in learning more about the project are encouraged to contact the city. City staff are available to provide overview presentations at community meetings.

For more info or to schedule a presentation, call 240-314-8223 or email zoning@rockvillemd.gov.

Additional details about the zoning ordinance rewrite and comprehensive map amendment updates are available at engagerockville.com/zoningrewrite. See the Mayor and Council and Planning Commission meetings at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.



SCOUT SHOWS WALL-TO-WALL DEDICATION ... Eagle Scout Samuel "Sam" Gregory, with support from fellow Scouts in Troop 773, recently completed a service project at King Farm Park playground to help protect and preserve the site. Sam researched the best practices for retaining walls, then designed one specifically for the park. He worked closely with Rockville's Recreation and Parks staff to develop materials and tools lists before leading the installation of a new retaining wall and drainage pipe. The project is designed to prevent sediment runoff and maintain the integrity of the playground surface for years to come.



ROCKVILLE ROLL CALL

"ROCKVILLE ROLL CALL" takes a closer look at Rockville staff members who serve our city.

In this edition, Rockville II talks with Jeanne Booth, the city's new director of justice, equity, diversity and inclusion.

Find "Rockville Roll Call" on Rockville II, channel 11 on county cable and at www.youtube.com/cityofrockville.

**LEARN MORE ON ROCKVILLE II**
www.youtube.com/cityofrockville



ROCKVILLE SALUTES SERVICE AND BRAVERY ... The 36th Annual Rockville Public Safety Awards, held June 3 at Lakewood Country Club, honored members of the Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Rockville Volunteer Fire Department, and the following members of the Rockville City Police Department (L to R): Dispatcher Keschia Paul (Distinguished Service Citation); Cpl. Nicholas Weiss, Cpl. Joseph McCann, Cpl. Eddie Roman, Cpl. Anthony Casabona, Officer Damoni Smith, Cpl. Jeff Park, Officer Omar Guevara and Officer Chance Thrasher (all receiving the Meritorious Service Citation); Sgt. Javier Baquero (Unsung Hero Award) and Cpl. Ronnie Crowe (Unsung Hero Award and Citation for Bravery). Not pictured: Officer Yocelin Bonilla and Cpl. Steven Pascali (Meritorious Service Citations), and Cpl. Ali Zeighani (Lifesaving Award and Distinguished Service Citation). The department also awarded Tyler Williams, a civilian (not pictured), the Lifesaving Award. Find more photos on the city's Instagram and Facebook accounts. Rockville II takes you to the awards at youtube.com/cityofrockville. Search "2025 Public Safety Awards."



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



Mayor & Council
mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

Propose a Project to Improve Your Neighborhood

With the Mayor and Council’s Fiscal Year 2026 budget deliberations having wrapped up in May, Rockville is already seeking input from community members about neighborhood improvement projects to be considered during the next budget season.

The city’s Capital Improvements Program lays out how Rockville plans to invest, over a five-year period, in projects such as parks, roads, buildings and other infrastructure. As Rockville begins preparations for the budget process for Fiscal Year 2027, which begins July 1, 2026, residents are encouraged to tell the city about the condition of streets and parks and help plan new facilities or infrastructure upgrades to meet community needs.

To tell the city what capital projects are needed in your neighborhood, complete and submit the form at www.rockvillemd.gov/propose-a-project by Friday, Sept. 12.

Proposals cannot serve a private purpose or be located on private property and should have an equal, accessible benefit to all community members. If submitted on behalf of a neighborhood group, the proposal should be discussed and agreed upon by the neighborhood group before submission. Neighborhood groups can provide the Mayor and Council with formal input about a project submission any time during the budget process via letter, email or online budget survey, or by addressing the Mayor and Council at a budget public hearing.

A summary of all proposals submitted will be provided to the Mayor and Council, the city manager and applicable city department staff, and will be included as part of the public record, beginning with the first budget public hearing in the fall. Learn more about the city’s budget process at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.



MAYOR MEETS MAYOR ... *Dumini Mehta, a fourth grader at College Gardens Elementary, joined Mayor Monique Ashton at the May 19 Mayor and Council meeting. Mehta read the essay she submitted in the annual “If I Were Mayor” contest, for which she earned the honor of serving as Rockville’s Mayor for a Day. On May 22, Mehta visited the Rockville City Police Department, the city’s new Taft Center offices and Croydon Creek Nature Center, and had lunch with the mayor. She also appeared in the city’s Memorial Day parade on May 26. Find video of her day as mayor at youtube.com/cityofrockville. Search “Mayor for a Day.” For more photos, follow the City of Rockville on Facebook and Instagram.*

FY26 Budget Focuses on Safety, Economic Development, Housing and Sustaining Progress

Rockville’s \$175.5 million budget, adopted May 5, maintains city services and emphasizes the Mayor and Council’s focus areas of public safety, economic development and housing.

The budget for Fiscal Year 2026, which begins July 1, is a 4.2% increase over the FY 2025 budget.

The city’s real property tax rate of \$0.292 per \$100 of assessed valuation remains the same. It has not increased since 1995. All residential and commercial property owners pay this tax. Utility rates and user fees will increase between 2% and 6%, on average, with some fees and charges remaining the same.

The Mayor and Council’s budget work included adjusting funding for community services and enrichment grants and reserving \$1.1 million in the city’s general fund for major initiatives to be considered during FY26.

“Although the city’s financial outlook is positive, we, along with many other jurisdictions in the Washington, D.C., metro area, remain cautious about the impacts of proposed changes from the new federal administration,” City Manager Jeff Mihelich said. “Enhanced funding for community services and enrichment grants provided in the FY 2026 budget will help provide increased community assistance for essential needs and emergency support as the full impact of federal workforce reductions to local employment rates is not yet known.”

About \$10 million in new funding for public safety will support the city’s Vision Zero Action Plan and Pedestrian Master Plan, a closed-circuit television modernization initiative at city facilities, two new full-time civilian positions in the Rockville

City Police Department, support for increased officer recruitment incentive programs, and funding for RCPD’s annual gun buyback. More than \$1.5 million will promote safety and quality in city drinking water and the water treatment plant, and \$250,000 will provide a new emergency response vehicle for the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department.

The budget also includes \$1.5 million for Rockville Economic Development, Inc., and five new full-time positions to support plan reviews, permit issuance and inspections, including the reinstatement of expedited building permit review processes.

Other initiatives include \$1 million for the Housing Opportunities Fund to promote preservation and addition of affordable housing, launch an employee homeownership assistance program, and begin development of a homeownership down payment assistance program. Two new full-time positions will help expand city housing programs.

The FY 2026-FY 2030 Capital Improvements Program for funding construction and infrastructure maintenance will support 66 projects in FY26. It includes a new entrance for the Rockville Senior Center property, completion of the maintenance and emergency operations facility at the Taft Center, renovations to Lincoln Park Community Center, and improvements to the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. (See page 6 for details about the community center and theater improvements.)

For more information, including the adopted FY26 budget document, when it is posted in July, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.

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

Meetings Schedule:
Mondays, July 14 and Aug. 4 (virtual only) at 5:30 p.m. and July 21 at 6:30 p.m. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details. A drop-in session from 5:15-6:15 p.m. will precede the July 21 meeting with Mayor Monique Ashton and Councilmember Adam Van Grack.

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.

- **July 9, 23 and Aug. 13, 27** Planning Commission 7 p.m. (To participate, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.)

Vacancies

- Board of Appeals (1)
- Board of Supervisors of Election (1)
- Cultural Arts Comm. (2)
- Education Comm. (1)
- Financial Advisory Board (1)
- Human Rights Comm. (1)
- Human Services Advisory Board (2)
- Landlord-Tenant Affairs Comm. (2)
- Planning Comm. (2)
- Transportation and Mobility Comm. (1)
- Youth Comm. (4)

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 Renews Lead Service Line Inventory Effort

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

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

A second survey is expected to be mailed this summer with the goal of further reducing the number of service lines with unknown materials. This information is crucial for complying with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Copper Regulations, which require water utilities to inventory all service lines. No lead service lines have been identified within the city's system.

The city encourages customers to participate in this important survey. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/lcrr, or by emailing lcrr@rockvillemd.gov or calling the city's Department of Public Works at 240-314-8500.

Green Grants Are Available for Community Groups

Does your organization have a green project in the works? Nonprofits, faith-based groups, homeowners associations or community organizations can apply for Rockville grant funds through the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Outreach and Restoration Grant Program.

The Outreach and Restoration Grant Program is a competitive water quality grant program that funds projects to reduce stormwater pollution and protect natural resources. Examples include permeable pavers and pavements, native landscaping, large-scale tree plantings, community outreach and engagement in reducing pollution, and environmental and sustainability projects that assist underserved communities. Learn more at cbtrust.org/grants/outreach-and-restoration.



There is hope.

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



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE



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.

Healthy Lawns and Gardens — Hold the Weed, Feed and Gasoline

Bans on nonorganic pesticides and on gas-powered leaf blowers don't have to mean lifeless lawns and gardens with the availability of rebates and green alternatives.

A ban on the use of gas-powered leaf blowers and vacuums in Montgomery County takes effect Tuesday, July 1 and applies in the City of Rockville. To help residents and businesses comply with the law, the county is offering a limited number of rebates for purchasing electric leaf blowers. Residents are eligible for one \$100 rebate. Applications for the rebates are available, starting July 1.

The ban aims to reduce harmful air emissions and continued reliance on fossil fuels, and to lessen health impacts that contribute to hearing loss, cardiovascular and respiratory disease, and other health issues. A ban on sales of gas-powered blowers and vacuums took effect last July.

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

The county law barring most nonorganic pesticides on private lawns, playgrounds, mulched recreation areas and child-care facilities also applies in Rockville. Organic lawn care is healthier for children, pets and the environment. And, with these simple tips, your lawn can stay healthy and green:

Soil tests cost \$10-18 and will help you plan what your lawn needs for soil health.

Core aerate the lawn if the soil is compacted, and feed the soil with compost, earthworm castings, compost tea or other natural materials to boost soil microorganisms.

Set your mower blade to cut higher than 4 inches and sharpen your blades after every 12 hours of use. Rather than bagging lawn clippings, just leave them to fertilize your lawn.

Pull weeds by hand. Leave clover to provide nitrogen to the soil, and tolerate a few dandelions, violets or other flowering plants that are good for pollinators and wildlife. Water deeply, and infrequently, to promote healthy grass root growth.

Overseed and fight weeds. The denser the grass, the harder it is for weeds to become established. Fall is best for broad overseeding, but you can repair bare or thin patches of lawn in spring and summer.

Get rebates for "rain-scapes." Rockville is proud to partner with the Chesapeake Bay Trust for the RainScapes Rebate Program. Rockville residents and nonprofits can receive up to \$5,000 in rebates for planting native landscapes, native trees, rain gardens and green roofs. Rebates are also available for rain barrels, cisterns, permeable pavers and pavement removal. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/rainscapes to learn more and apply.

Learn more about organic lawns at montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns.



The Mayor and Council and members of the city's Environment Commission presented Environmental Excellence Awards to Dawn Samen (holding plaque at left) and Ingleside at King Farm (represented by David Martinsen, holding plaque at right).

Rockville Honors Community for Environmental Excellence

The Mayor and Council and the city's Environment Commission honored a community member and a senior living community in June with Environmental Excellence Awards, recognizing contributions to Rockville's environmental health and sustainability.

Dawn Samen received the Carl Henn Environmental Excellence Award for Outstanding Individual Environmental Stewardship for her dedication to litter removal and beautifying Twinbrook neighborhood parks for over 18 years. Samen believes if one person from each neighborhood in the city did this work, Rockville would be that much more beautiful.

Ingleside at King Farm received the Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Practices Award for their

residential compost program that serves Ingleside residents and collects 300 pounds of food scraps and compostables every week. Ingleside's dining department also offers only reusable or compostable containers for carryout.

Find more information and video of the awards presentation with the June 2 Mayor and Council meeting listing at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter or search "June Proclamation Presentations" at [youtube.com/cityofrockville](https://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville).

Do you know someone deserving of recognition for their environmental efforts? Nominations are accepted on a rolling basis. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/environment/awards for award categories and guidelines, nomination forms and eligibility.



Climate Solutions Speaker Series: Rockville Native Garden Tour

The city's Climate Solutions Speaker Series is back with an in-person guided tour of a native garden in Rockville.

Join the city from 8-10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 16 to tour a RainScapes garden and find inspiration for creating biodiversity in your own yard or patio. Learn how native gardens provide habitat for birds and butterflies, collect and clean stormwater, and cre-

ate climate-friendly greenspaces for people. Learn about RainScapes gardens — and how to get rebates for planting one — at www.rockvillemd.gov/rainscapes.

The garden is on private property located in the West End neighborhood. The address will be emailed to registered attendees a week before the event.

Space is limited. Registration is required at bit.ly/rkvnativegardentour.



ROCKVILLE CELEBRATES JUNETEENTH AT BLACKROCK ... Rockville community members, the Mayor and Council and city staff joined Montgomery County for the annual Juneteenth celebration on June 21 at BlackRock Center for the Arts in Germantown. The celebration, with the theme of "Pushing Back — The Fight for Freedom Is Not Over," featured focused talks, artisans and performances.

Pictured (L to R) are councilmembers Marissa Valeri and Barry Jackson, Mayor Monique Ashton, and councilmembers Adam Van Grack and Izola (Zola) Shaw. Rockville was an event sponsor.

See Rockville II's recap at [youtube.com/cityofrockville](https://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville). Search "Juneteenth."

Rockville's Water Remains Safe, Treatment Plant Upgrades Help Ensure Reliability

Rockville's water once again met or exceeded all federal water quality regulation limits, the city's Department of Public Works said in the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report released July 1.

The city's water treatment plant, on the banks of the Potomac River, serves 70% of Rockville, or approximately 13,500 accounts and 52,000 community members. The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission serves the remainder of the city.

The past year saw the completion of several major parts of a plant upgrade project that began in 2021. This included the replacement of aged electrical systems and components that provided primary power to the plant and updates to the main building's roof, HVAC system and workspaces that had remained unchanged since the plant's opening in 1958. Network cybersecurity improvements and a chemical feed project to replace chlorine gas with sodium hypochlorite (liquid chlorine) are ongoing.

The plant improvements enhance system reliability and community safety, and provide safer workspaces for employees. Plant operators monitor water quality to ensure chlorine and corrosion control, preventing lead and copper in distribution pipes from leaching into drinking water. Rockville 11 offers an inside look at the state-of-the-art technology, treatment processes and skilled staff who deliver high-quality water to Rockville households at [youtube.com/cityofrockville](https://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville). Search "Water Treatment Plant Tour."

As part of Lead and Copper Rule Improvements by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Rockville is taking inventory of all water service line materials on public and private property. The city is mailing surveys to water customers to request assistance in its inventory efforts. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/lcrr and in the article on page 4. No lead service lines have been identified within the city's system. Rockville will prepare a lead service line replacement plan and review corrosion control treatments based on EPA rule revisions.

Find the annual report detailing the source and quality of Rockville's drinking water at www.rockvillemd.gov/waterquality.

Street Improvements and Summer Study for Rockville's Vision Zero

Rockville's Department of Public Works is spending the summer completing several traffic calming and sidewalk projects aimed at improving safety for all as part of the city's Vision Zero initiative.

Among the improvements are concrete refuge islands to provide a place for pedestrians to wait while crossing Mannakee Street at Smallwood Road, and Twinbrook Parkway at Meadow Hall Drive. The speed hump on Mannakee Street will be restored to slow traffic. Mannakee Street and Twinbrook Parkway are both scheduled for repaving before the start of the school year in late August.

City staff met in May to discuss additional intersection improvements in Twinbrook, including opportunities to add signs and crosswalks to control traffic at the intersections of Ardennes and Wainwright avenues, Ardennes and Ridgway avenues, and Lemay Road and Ridgway Avenue.

Staff also joined community members, the Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee and members of the Mayor and Council on May 15 for a "walk 'n' roll" event along Rollins Avenue between Evelyn Drive and Rockville Pike. The tour highlighted work that is now ongoing to install edge line markings between the parking and travel lanes on Rollins Avenue, and a feedback sign to flash the speed of passing vehicles. Staff also provided updates on the Complete Streets feasibility study of Congressional Lane, and the East Jefferson Street and Halpine Road bicycle lanes study and design project.

Also in May, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Transportation Planning Board approved \$80,000 for the Rollins-Twinbrook Complete Streets Feasibility Study. The funding will allow the city to develop preliminary alternatives for re-

continued on pg. 7...

Rockville Rec and Parks Makes Finalist List for Prestigious Award

Rockville is among 27 agencies nationwide selected as finalists for the 2025 National Gold Medal Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.

Rockville is one of four finalists in class IV, which includes communities with populations between 30,001 and 75,000. Other finalists in the class include Bristol, Connecticut; Glenview, Illinois; and Oak Park, Illinois.

The awards, presented by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association, recognize communities that demonstrate outstanding achievement in long-range planning, resource management, environmental stewardship, program and professional development, and community engagement.

Finalists were selected by a panel of park and recreation professionals based on their ability to meet community needs through collaboration among residents, staff and elected leaders.

Rockville's inclusion reflects its commitment to high-quality programs, facilities and services that promote health, wellness and inclusion.

Rockville's recreation and parks mission reaches all 67,000 Rockville residents, and thousands more in the region, through 67 parks, three community centers, a regional swim and fitness center, senior and nature centers, four historic properties, a performing arts theater and more than 3,000 programs offered annually.

Winners in each class will be announced Wednesday, Sept. 17 at the National Recreation and Park Association's annual conference in Orlando, Florida.

The Gold Medal Awards program, established in 1965, honors public park agencies and state park systems across the United States.

For more information about the awards, visit www.aapra.org or www.nrpa.org. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation to learn more about the Department of Recreation and Parks.



HIGHLIGHTING THE CREWS WORKING FOR YOU: TAKE TWO ... It took two tries — with an earlier date postponed by rain — but Rockville's Equipment Show on June 13 showcased the cool tools, big trucks and dedicated public works employees who keep Rockville running. Attended by schoolchildren and community members, the day featured fun giveaways, as well as exhibits on recycling and trash, environmental management, the city's water treatment plant, water and sewer operations, and stormwater management. Rockville 11 takes you to the show at [youtube.com/cityofrockville](https://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville). Search "2025 Equipment Show." Find more photos on Facebook and Instagram. Learn more about Rockville's public works at www.rockvillemd.gov/publicworks.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Horticulture Kidz Program

Rockville is seeking enthusiastic volunteers to guide, inspire and share their passion for gardening with young gardeners in the city's **Horticulture Kidz Program!**

City of Rockville
Housing & Community Development

Learn more and volunteer by contacting C.J. Rucker:
crucker@rockvillemd.gov • 240-314-8317

Get to Know Your New Bus Stop Signs

All of Metro's bus routes will have updated names, routes, and schedules.

Old Bus Routes
The box at the top shows bus routes that end on June 28.

New Bus Routes
This area shows the bus routes that start on June 29.

New Route Destination
Check where the bus is going to make sure you're heading in the right location.

202-GO-METRO STOP# 6000651

Call For More Info

Visit wmata.com/betterbus for maps and service information.

New Bus Routes in Effect

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's first comprehensive redesign of the Metrobus system in 50 years means changes for Rockville's bus routes.

The changes, which became effective June 29, eliminate Metrobus service to the Rockville Metro station, making the Twinbrook Metro station the northernmost Metrobus stop on Rockville Pike. RideOn buses will continue to provide service to the Rockville station.

Other changes to Metrobus routes include the M12, replacing the C2/C4, and the M82, taking over the T2 route.

Every Metrobus route regionwide is affected by the changes, with the goal of providing faster, more frequent and more reliable bus service that is easier to use. Learn more at betterbus.wmata.com.

BEAT THE HEAT: Extreme Heat

Heat-related deaths are preventable

WHAT: Extreme heat or heat waves occur when the temperature reaches extremely high levels or when the combination of heat and humidity causes the air to become oppressive.

WHO: Children, Older adults, More males than females are affected, Outside workers, People with disabilities

WHERE: Houses with little to no AC, Construction work sites, Cars

HOW to AVOID: Stay hydrated with water, avoid sugary beverages, Stay cool in an air conditioned area, Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothes

During extreme heat the temperature in your car could be deadly!

Outside Temperature 80°

Inside 109° Time Elapsed: 20 minutes

Inside 118° Time Elapsed: 40 minutes

Inside 123° Time Elapsed: 60 minutes

HEAT ALERTS: Know the difference.

HEAT OUTLOOK	HEAT WATCHES	HEAT WARNING/ADVISORY
Minor Excessive heat event in 3 to 7 days	Excessive heat event in 12 to 48 hours	Excessive heat event in next 36 hours Major

DID YOU KNOW?

Those living in **urban areas** may be at a greater risk from the effects of a prolonged heat wave than those living in rural areas.

Sunburn can significantly slow the skin's ability to release excess heat.

Most **heat-related illnesses** occur because of overexposure to heat or over-exercising.

During 1999-2009, an average of **658** people died each year from heat in the United States.

\$30 BILLION estimated total cost of the 2012 US drought and heatwave.

For more information on ways to beat the heat please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat>

CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response

July/August 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



JULY

1,8,15,22,29 **TUESDAY NIGHT BIKE RIDE** Weekly rides rotate locations by month. Free. 6:30 p.m. July rides meet at Westat parking lot, 1600 Research Blvd. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/rbac.

2 **V** **ASK AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) OWNER — YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED** Ask local EV owners about their experiences and get answers to your questions. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Find link at www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.

4 **INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION** See article on page 1. Enjoy live music by Vertigo Red and a 20-minute fireworks display. Free. 7-10 p.m. Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park, 1800 Piccard Drive.

6 **THE ROCKVILLE CONCERT BAND PRESENTS A “SUMMER EVENING OF POPS”** See article on page 6. Free. The Square at Rockville Town Center.

8 **SCIENCE TUESDAYS** Monthly presentations and conversations with a scientist. No background required — just curiosity. Co-sponsored by Rockville Science Center. Register with course #36832. Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

8,10,22,24 **V** **BANKON FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOPS** See article on page 2. Free. 5-6:30 p.m.

13 **POOL DEDICATION CEREMONY** See article on page 1. 10 a.m. **SFC**

14 **IMPROVISE AND CONNECT** Meet new people and play games in a fun, supportive atmosphere. Instructor: Topher Bellavia. Register with course #36929. Free. 10:30-11:30 a.m. **SR**

17 **TOAST2PEACE ON PEACE DAY** Celebrate peace advocate Mattie J.T. Stepanek's 35th birthday with a fun evening of food, beer and entertainment. See ad below. Free. 5-8 p.m. World of Beer, 196 E. Montgomery Ave.

17 **BETTER BREATHER'S CLUB** See article on page 6. Register with course #36331. Free. 1:30-2:30 p.m. **SR**

18 **ROCKVILLE RUBBER DUCKY DERBY** Visit www.duckrace.com/rockville for more information and to adopt a duck. **SFC**

19-20 **THE ROCKVILLE CIVIC BALLET PRESENTS “ALICE IN WONDERLAND”** See article on page 6. Timothy O'Shea Theater, Watkins Mill High School, 10301 Apple Ridge Road, Gaithersburg.

20 **RIDE THE ROCKVILLE BIKE BELTWAY** Eat ice cream after a ride on the Carl Henn Millenium Trail. Ride begins 10 a.m. at Lil Cakes & Creamery, 844 Rockville Pike. Free. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/rbac.

31 **V** **BALANCING HEALING: WEIGHING THE PROS AND CONS OF ALTERNATIVE AND TRADITIONAL MEDICINE** See article on page 6. Register with course #36991. Free. 1-2 p.m.

31 **V** **ZONING ORDINANCE REWRITE COMMUNITY MEETING** See article on page 2. 7 p.m.

31 **MOVIES IN THE PARKS: “INSIDE OUT 2”** See article on page 8. Bring chairs, blankets and snacks. Movie begins at dusk. Free. 8-10 p.m. Falls Grove Park, 700 Falls Grove Drive.

AUGUST

1 **SAVING CLAIRE** See article on page 6. Register with course #36842. Free. 10 a.m.-noon. **SR**

5 **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME** Rockville City Police Department joins Rockville neighborhoods for community celebrations. See article on page 8.

5,12,19,26 **TUESDAY NIGHT BIKE RIDE** Weekly evening bike rides at different starting locations each month. 6:30 p.m. August rides begin at Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive. Free. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/rbac.

6 **V** **ASK AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) OWNER — YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED** Ask local EV owners about their experiences and get answers to your questions. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Find link at www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.

7 **MOVIES IN THE PARKS: “INSIDE OUT 2”** See article on page 8. Bring chairs, blankets and snacks. Movie begins at dusk. Free. 8-10 p.m. Montrose Park, 451 Congressional Lane.

12 **H** **SCIENCE TUESDAYS** Monthly presentations and discussions with a scientist. No science background required. Cosponsored by Rockville Science Center. Register with course #36832. Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

13 **BLOOD THINNERS: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY** See article on page 6. Register with course #36341. Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

13 **OFF-THE-BEATEN PATH IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY** Learn about 10 lesser-known yet significant sites in Montgomery County. Presented by Ralph Buglass. Register with course #36906. \$7 M/\$10 NM. 10-11 a.m. **SR**

14 **MOVIES IN THE PARKS: “THE WILD ROBOT”** See article on page 8. Bring chairs, blankets and snacks. Movie begins at dusk. Free. 8-10 p.m. Isreal Park, 357 Frederick Ave.

15 **AROUND THE WORLD IN A DAY** Celebrate International Day with cultural food, music and dance. Sponsored by several local organizations. Register with course #36989. \$12 M/\$15 NM. 1-3 p.m. **SR**

16 **RAINSCAPES GARDEN TOUR** See article on page 4. Free. 8-10 a.m.

18 **MEMORY SCREENINGS** See article on page 6. Call 240-314-8810 to schedule. Free. 10-11:30 a.m. **SR**

21 **BETTER BREATHER'S CLUB** Monthly club featuring educational presentations on respiratory health. See article on page 6. Register with course #36331. Free. 1:30-2:30 p.m. **SR**

21 **MOVIES IN THE PARKS: “IF”** See article on page 8. Bring chairs, blankets and snacks. Movie begins at dusk. Free. 8-10 p.m. Woodley Gardens Park, 900 Nelson St.

27 **ALL-DAY EXERCISE** See article on page 6. Register with course #36849. Free. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **SR**

28 **V** **STRONG HEARTS, STRONG WOMEN: NAVIGATING CARDIOVASCULAR WELL-NESS** See article on page 6. Register with course #36992. Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

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

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

Pool Reopens with Dedication

continued from pg. 1...

Swimmers can now enjoy dual 26-foot water slides, one open and one enclosed, alongside an activity pool with an in-water play unit, a wellness pool with lap lanes and an 8-foot-tall slide. The redesign includes in-water basketball, shaded seating areas, two gently sloped beach-style entries into the activity pool, and informal recreation features spread throughout the complex.

A ceremony to formally dedicate the pool will be held at 10 a.m. Sunday, July 13.

To see how renovations progressed and to learn more about the updated amenities, visit rockvillemd.gov/rsfc renovations. See the R11 interview with Goldstein by searching “pool renovations” at youtube.com/cityofrockville. The center is located at 355 Martins Lane. ▶

Toast2Peace on Peace Day
Celebrating Mattie's 35th birthday - with international clinks!
Thursday, July 17, 2025
5-8 pm (Proclamations & Toast at 7pm)
World of Beer
196 E. Montgomery Ave, Rockville, MD
Entertainment & peace activities for all ages.
Free entry.
Portion of restaurant sales support
Mattie's Peace Foundation.
INTERNATIONAL LIVE STREAM TOAST (7p EDT)
with neighbors in Canada,
New York, UK, & other locations!
**“Raise a glass or grateful hands...
connect with purpose - for peace!”**

VisionZero Projects

continued from pg. 5...



signing Rollins Avenue and Twinbrook Parkway to support multimodal transportation, including bi-

cycle lanes, pedestrian crossing improvements, traffic calming measures, bus stop enhancements and wider sidewalks. The award does not require the city to provide matching funds. Consultant selection is expected this summer, with the development of redesign alternatives beginning in fall.

Learn about these and other projects that are part of the city's Vision Zero Action Plan to eliminate traffic-related deaths and serious injuries at www.rockvillemd.gov/visionzeroprojects. ▶

Neighbors to Turn Out for National Night Out Against Crime

The Rockville City Police Department joins Rockville neighborhoods for community celebrations as part of National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 5.

Now in its 42nd year, National Night Out is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. It aims to raise awareness about crime and drug prevention, generate support for anti-crime programs and strengthen community spirit and community policing partnerships. Neighborhoods will host block parties featuring cookouts, bounce houses, carnival games and giveaways.

McGruff the Crime Dog will stop by several block parties to spread his anti-crime and anti-drug message. The Mayor and Council and RCPD officers will also visit many gatherings.

Residents are invited to turn on outdoor lights as part of the traditional display of front porch vigils, sending the message to criminals that neighborhoods are fighting back against crime.

For more information, visit www.rockville.md.gov/nno. To register your block party, contact Cpl. Ronnie Crowe at 240-314-8974 or rcrowe@rockvillemd.gov.

Readying for Rocktoberfest

Rocktoberfest returns to Rockville Town Center on Saturday, Sept. 27 for a Bavarian-themed bash featuring bands, beers and bratwurst.

The eighth edition of the free festival, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., will include two stages of live music, food, beer sales by local breweries, an artisan shopping area and kids' activities. This popular event attracts nearly 8,000 people each year.

Learn how to become an event sponsor and find more details, including the entertainment schedule, as they become available at www.rockvillemd.gov/rocktoberfest.

Rockville's Colorblind Visitors Will See Clearer View of Nature with New Adapted Viewfinder at Nature Center

Colorblind visitors will be able to better see the natural landscape of Rockville's Croydon Creek Nature Center with the recent installation of a new, specialized viewfinder that allows the viewing of a wider range of colors.

"This initiative exemplifies Rockville's commitment to accessibility and inclusion within our parks and services," Rockville Recreation and Parks Director Tara Stewart said.

The new adaptation, featuring EnChroma lenses, was added to an existing accessible viewfinder that was donated to the nature center in 2018 by the Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation.

The specialized lenses help those with red-green color vision deficiency experience a broader spectrum of colors. While people with standard vision can perceive more than 1 million shades of color, those with red-green CVD typically see only about 10% of those hues, with reds and greens often appearing dull and indistinguishable.

Color vision deficiency affects about one in 12 men (8%) and one in 200 women (0.5%), totaling about 13 million Americans and 350 million people worldwide.

"We are thrilled to bring the vibrancy of nature to life for individuals with color vision deficiency," Stewart said.

Croydon Creek Nature Center, located at 852 Avery Road in Rockville, is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Learn more about the center at www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek.

On the Big Screen and On the Lawn: Rockville's Movies in the Parks

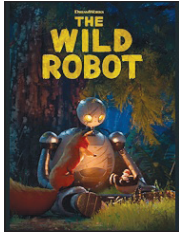
Four movies. Four weeks. Four neighborhood parks.

Mark your summer entertainment calendar for Rockville's free outdoor Movies in the Parks, on the big screen at neighborhood parks throughout the city on Thursdays from July 31 to Aug. 21.

Bring chairs, blankets, food and nonalcoholic beverages and enjoy four family-friendly movies at four different neighborhood parks. Movies begin at dusk (approximately 8 p.m.) and are free.

- The 2025 schedule is:
- "The Emperor's New Groove" (rated G) on July 31, at Falls Grove Park, 700 Falls Grove Drive.
 - "Inside Out 2" (PG) on Aug. 7, at Montrose Park, 451 Congressional Lane.
 - "The Wild Robot" (PG) on Aug. 14, at Isreal Park, 357 Frederick Ave.
 - "IF" (PG) on Aug. 21, at Woodley Gardens Park, 900 Nelson St.

Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/moviesintheparks.



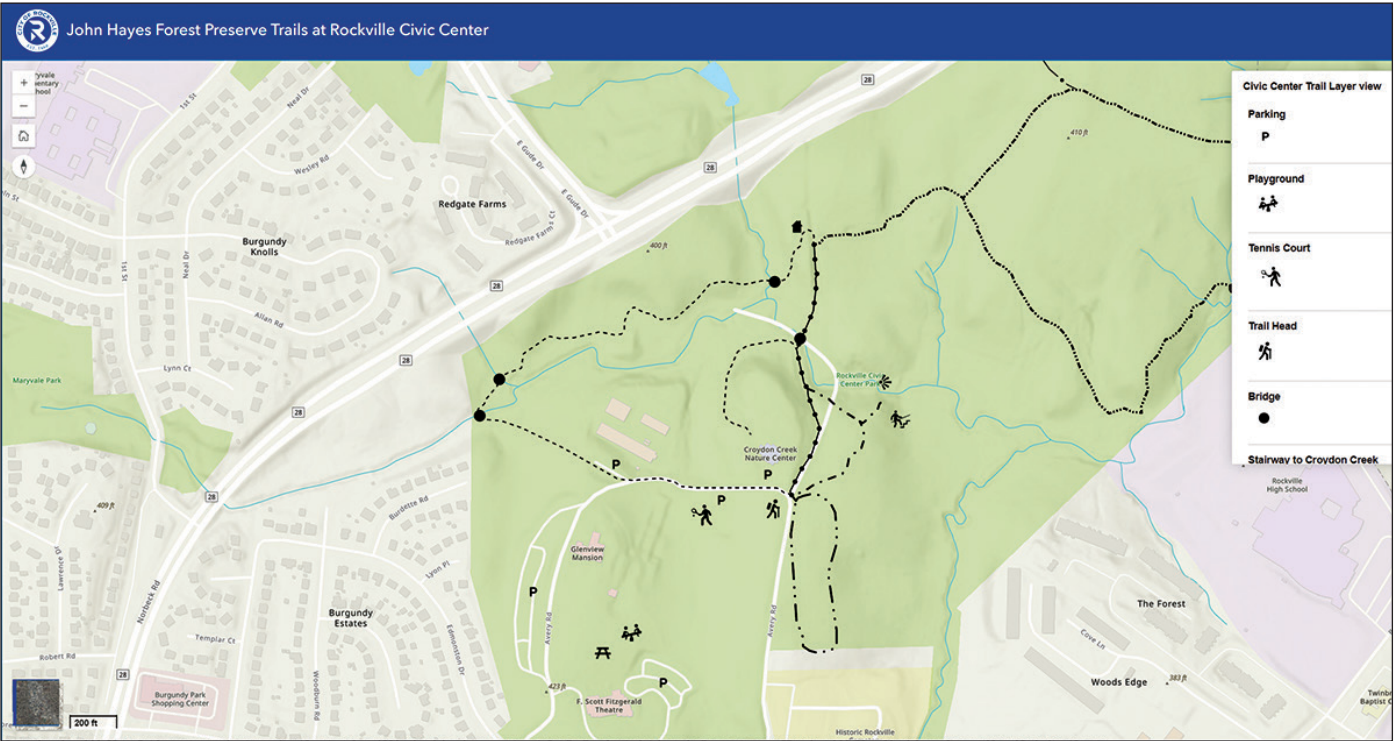
A COAT OF NEW COLOR IN COLLEGE GARDENS PARK ... A new mural was in the works this summer at College Gardens Park, thanks to artist Andy Dahl. Watch Rockville 11's video on [youtube.com/cityofrockville](https://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville) to see an interview with the artist and how the mural came together.

Dahl is a painter, sculptor, filmmaker and public artist with a master's in fine arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art. He balances his time between public art commissions, serving as a community organizer in East Baltimore and several film projects. Additionally, Dahl has worked extensively on youth empowerment projects through the arts in New Orleans, Bolivia, Paraguay and California.

College Gardens Park is located at 615 College Parkway. The mural is part of Rockville's Art in Public Places program. Learn more about public art in Rockville at www.rockvillemd.gov/aipp.

In other arts news, a call for artists has been issued for applicants to submit their proposals for the Memory Walk Park Public Art Project. The submission deadline is Friday, July 11.

Learn more about the project and submit an application at www.rockvillemd.gov/2579/memory-walk-park-public-art-project.



New Online Map Details Hayes Preserve Trails at Civic Center

More than 3 miles of trails in the John G. Hayes Forest Preserve, adjacent to Croydon Creek Nature Center, became a little easier to navigate through the addition of map that hikers can access online.

The map shows hikers' locations in realtime, when opened on a mobile device, to help them determine where they are, even if they

take a wrong turn.

Each of the six trails within the preserve have descriptions when clicked on in the map, with information that includes activity level and length, and icons show the location of trailheads, parking, bridges and other details.

The map also lists points of interest and amenities within Rockville Civic

Center Park, including parking locations, picnic areas and the trailhead.

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

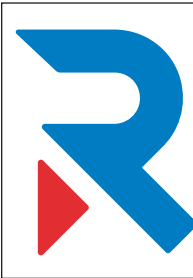
Find the map at bit.ly/hayestrails. Learn more



about Croydon Creek Nature Center at www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek.

Connect with us on Social Media.





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