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COVID-19: City Hall to Reopen March 28

Rockville City Hall will reopen Monday, March 28, with provisions in place to protect the health of Rockville employees and the public and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The Mayor and Council will continue to hold hybrid meetings, which the public is welcome to attend virtually, until further notice. These meetings can be viewed on-demand or live streamed online at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11 and can be watched on Rockville 11 on Comcast and Verizon cable channel 11.

City Hall has been closed since March 14, 2020, however, city services have been available virtually throughout the pandemic. Community centers, the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, Civic Center Park and the Rockville Senior Center are open for in-person use.

Rockville mandates vacci-

nations and booster shots for all city employees and provides frequent COVID testing opportunities.

The city will continue to require face coverings for all employees and visitors, age 2 and older, in City of Rockville facilities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommends face coverings when the rate of community transmission is substantial, as it is presently in Montgomery County. When that rate becomes moderate or low, the city can reassess the face covering requirement.

To better assist visitors and monitor indoor use of face coverings, City Hall's third-floor main entrance on Vinson Street will be the facility's only entrance and exit for visitors until further notice. Face coverings will be provided to visitors who need them.

continued on pg. 7...

Mayor and Council Choose Preferred Concept for Future of RedGate Park

The Mayor and Council have decided on a preferred concept for the future of the 131-acre RedGate Park from three initial concepts presented to them at their Monday, Feb. 7 work session.

All three concepts prioritized nature-based amenities and passive recreation — activities such as connected trails for biking, hiking and walking, pathways, areas for picnicking, open spaces and natural habitats, as well as options for a possible amphitheater, community center, and sports field.

Following discussion, the preferred concept of the Mayor and Council included a smaller-scale amphitheater, community gardens, a nature playground, an arboretum, picnic areas, a network of trails and renovating the existing clubhouse.

Each concept was a preliminary and broad overview of possible amenities for the

park, and was developed following an Oct. 18 discussion with the Mayor and Council. Concepts were based on the city's strategic plan for recreation and parks in Rockville, considerable engagement with and feedback from the community, input from the Mayor and Council, and environmental constraints of natural features at the park.

City staff is working on the best method to reach out to the community and stakeholders for feedback and input on the Mayor and Council's preferred concept.

For more information, and to see the presentation to the Mayor and Council, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter, and click the TV icon next to the Feb. 7 agenda item.

Learn more about the RedGate Park visioning and engagement process at engage.rockville.com/redgate-park. 🌱

Spring Forward and Check Your Smoke Alarms

Daylight saving time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 13, which is the ideal reminder for homeowners to check smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors while setting clocks forward an hour.

Alarms and detectors are the best way of notifying you and your family of a fire.

State law requires that battery-operated smoke alarms be replaced every 10 years from the date of manufacture. The devices should also be tested at least once a month.

State law also calls for older smoke alarms to be replaced with new, sealed, long-life battery-powered smoke alarms. Hardwired 120-volt electric smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years with new 120-volt smoke alarms with battery backup to ensure proper and timely operation in a fire. Homeowners with hardwired smoke alarms should not replace their devices with battery-powered alarms.

Fire code-compliant smoke alarms can be purchased at most home improvement stores.

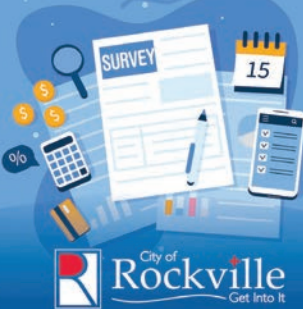
For more information visit www.rockvillemd.gov/fire safety or email Carl Young, city fire marshal, at cyoung@rockvillemd.gov. 🌱

Help Shape Our Community

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TAKE THE CITY OF ROCKVILLE FY 2023 Budget Survey

Public participation in the budget process is a high priority for the Mayor and Council and city staff. By completing the 2023 Budget Survey, you are providing valuable input to the Mayor and Council for their FY23 budget discussions.



Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget

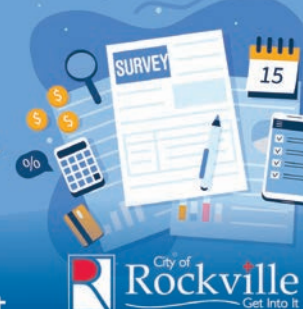


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COMPLETE LA ENCUESTA Presupuesto de la Ciudad de Rockville Para el Año Fiscal 2023

La participación pública en el proceso del presupuestario es de alta prioridad para la Alcaldesa y el Concejo, y el personal de la ciudad. Al llenar la encuesta sobre el presupuesto para el año fiscal 2023, estará proporcionando comentarios valiosos a la Alcaldesa y al Consejo para sus discusiones sobre el presupuesto para el año fiscal 2023.



Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget



SURVEY SAYS! ... Public participation in the City of Rockville's budget process is a high priority for the Mayor and Council and city staff. A budget survey in English and Spanish at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget allows community members to identify their top budget priorities, initiatives for reducing the negative impacts of COVID-19 and options for maintaining a balanced budget. The public response to the survey will provide valuable input to the Mayor and Council for their Fiscal Year 2023 budget discussions. For more details on the FY 2023 budget, see "Budget Watch" on page 2.

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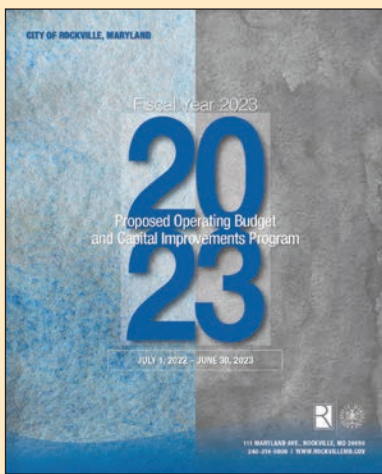
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Budget Watch: Fiscal Year 2023



Rockville Utilities

Rockville's four utility funds are enterprise funds. They function like a private business, with costs fully recovered through user charges. The utility funds are the water fund, the sewer fund, the refuse fund, and the stormwater management fund.

Revenue from the funds pays for repairs and replacement of aging water and sewer pipes and other infrastructure vital to providing these services, and for required payments to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission related to a regional wastewater treatment plant. The city does not control the amount paid for regional wastewater treatment.

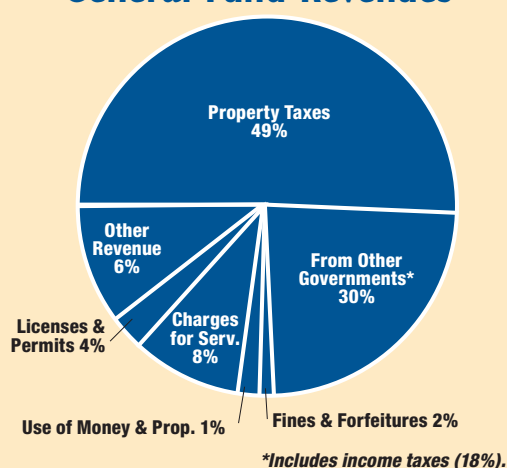
In January, the city transitioned to a rate structure based on property classification, namely single family, multifamily and nonresidential. This new structure more equitably distributes the cost of providing water and sewer service.

For a table showing water and sewer usage charges for each classification, see page 374 of the proposed budget at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.

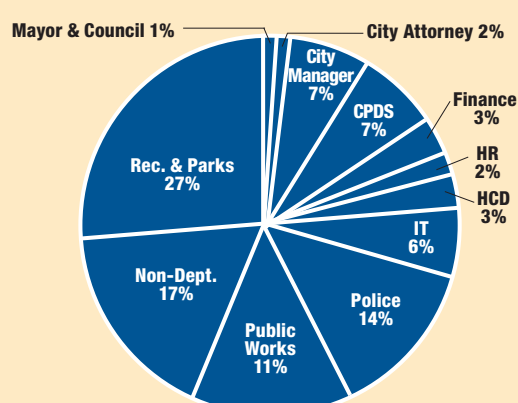
Other changes to city utility rates include a proposed \$20 annual increase in the refuse and recycling rate, to \$479 per household. The stormwater management rate would increase by \$6, to \$138 for the year, following four years of the same rate.

Understanding the General Fund

Proposed FY23 General Fund Revenues



Proposed FY23 General Fund Expenditures



Rockville's Mayor and Council continue budget deliberations this month with public hearings and work sessions focused on crafting a Fiscal Year 2023 budget that outlines the city's priorities.

City Manager Rob DiSpirito was scheduled to present the Mayor and Council with a FY 2023 budget proposal on Feb. 28 that focuses on Mayor and Council priorities while addressing recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The FY 2023 proposed budget uses resources wisely and focuses on several Mayor and Council priorities, including implementation of the Comprehensive Plan, environmental sustainability and Climate Action Plan, Vision Zero, economic development, and financial sustainability and pandemic recovery," DiSpirito wrote in a letter introducing the budget. "While there are many other items proposed in the FY 2023 budget (including cultural arts, [the Americans with Disabilities Act], grants management, public safety, and housing), staff understood these to be top priority areas for FY 2023."

Find video of the presentation with the Feb. 28 meeting listing at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

The budget, which covers the fiscal year that begins July 1, is scheduled for adoption by the Mayor and Council on Monday, May 9.

The proposed FY 2023 operating budget of \$148.6 million is a 5.2% increase over the FY 2022 adopted budget. The general fund budget, which supports the largest portion of the operating budget, is \$93.1 million, a 7.7% increase.

The city's current real property tax rate of \$0.292 per \$100 of assessed valuation would remain the same for FY 2023. All residential and

ARPA Aids in Pandemic Recovery

The city received \$9.6 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act funding. ARPA's goal is to aid state and local governments in recovering from the budgetary, economic, and financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During Fiscal Year 2022, the Mayor and Council appropriated \$5.6 million of ARPA funds for the following:

- \$1 million for delinquent water and sewer bill forgiveness.
- \$1.4 million for commercial water meter replacements.
- \$750,000 for upgrades to the city's water treatment plant.
- \$530,000 for water treatment plant safety improvements.
- \$300,000 for water treatment plant cybersecurity improvements.
- \$650,000 for King Farm Farmstead sewer infrastructure.
- \$450,000 for King Farm Farmstead electrical infrastructure.
- \$533,345 for an enclosure for the recycling transfer station at the city's Gude Drive Maintenance Facility.

The remaining \$4 million will be discussed and likely appropriated in calendar year 2022.

commercial property owners pay this tax. Rockville has not increased its property tax rate since 1995.

The proposed budget prioritizes implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. Adopted by the Mayor and Council in August, the plan contains the core philosophy that guides development, conservation, and capital improvement projects to improve quality of life in Rockville.

Other priorities in the proposal include:

- \$4.2 million for flood mitigation, electric vehicle infrastructure, LED streetlight conversion, and storm drain analysis and spot repairs as part of the Climate Action Plan adopted in January. The proposed budget also funds the creation of a sustainability program manager position to implement and manage city initiatives recommended by the plan.
- \$8.4 million for several projects that support Vision Zero, a transportation safety action plan to eliminate all traffic-related deaths and serious injuries. Projects include asphalt and concrete improvements and replacement, LED streetlight conversion,



OFFER YOUR IDEAS

- Using the budget survey, in English and Spanish, at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.
- At public hearings during the Mayor and Council meetings on March 7 and April 4.

and pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements to sidewalks and roadways.

- \$1.6 million for Rockville Economic Development, Inc., the nonprofit charged with helping businesses launch, locate and expand in Rockville. The 13% increase over FY 2022 will support operational cost increases, tourism promotion, REDI's business incentive program and a commercial district creation project.
- \$300,000 for two-year contract for a consultant to assist with an update to the city's zoning ordinance.
- Restoration of operating funds, eliminated during the pandemic, and funding for the Employee Compensation and Classification Study rec-

FY 2023 BUDGET AT A GLANCE CALENDAR

- **Monday, March 7:** Public hearing.
- **Monday, March 21:** Budget public hearing, and work sessions on the budget and the use of ARPA funds.
- **Monday, April 4:** Public hearing.
- **Friday, April 15:** Close of budget public record.
- **Monday, April 18:** Work session.
- **Monday, April 25:** Final direction on budget.
- **Monday, May 9:** Adoption of the operating budget and Capital Improvements Program.
- **Friday, July 1:** FY 2023 begins.

For information about how to testify at hearings, find agendas, posted the week before each date, at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Meetings are broadcast on channel 11 on county cable, livestreamed at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11, and available a day after each meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand.

To review the proposed budget, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.

ommendations to make employee compensation competitive with the market.

The proposal calls for an increase of 17.8 full-time equivalent positions, including four that were previously frozen. They are two senior planners, a police major, and a senior construction projects manager.

The proposed FY 2023-FY 2027 CIP, the five-year plan for funding new construction and infrastructure maintenance, includes \$27.3 million in new funding, combined with a carryover of \$58.2 million to support 46 projects during the fiscal year. ✚

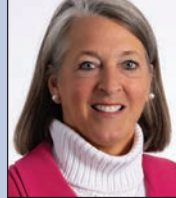
Proposed FY 2023-FY 2027 Capital Improvements Program

Eleven projects are new to the FY 2023-FY 2027 Capital Improvements Program. For more information on each, see page 27 of the proposed FY 2023 budget at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.

- **Rockville Civic Center Park Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant accessible sidewalk.**
- **King Farm Farmstead electric infrastructure.** *Fully funded with ARPA funds.*
- **King Farm Farmstead garage and tenant building stabilization and rehabilitation.**
- **Pedestrian bridge replacement at Woottons Mill Park.**
- **RedGate Park infrastructure and amenities**, based on the outcome of the park's master planning process. (See the article on page 1.)
- **Scott Drive and Veirs Drive shared-use path**, between Glen Mill Road and Wootton Parkway.
- **Development of a Flood Resiliency Master Plan.**
- **Storm drain analysis and spot repair in Potomac Woods.**
- **Water treatment plant cybersecurity improvements.** *Fully funded with ARPA funds.*
- **Water treatment plant sludge dewatering equipment replacement.**
- **Electric vehicle charging infrastructure**, on city property and possibly rights of way adjacent to city facilities, to serve the city fleet and potentially employees and the community.



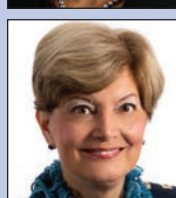
mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov



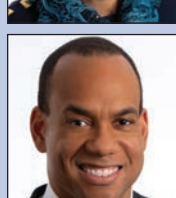
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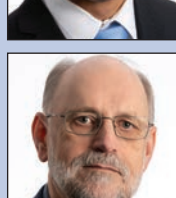
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VIRTUAL MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD ONLINE.
Meetings are closed to in-person attendance and are livestreamed at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11.

Meetings Schedule: Monday, March 7 and 28 at 7 p.m., with a work session at 7 p.m. Monday, March 21. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details.

The March 21 work session will be preceded by a drop-in session by telephone with Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg from 5:30-6:30 p.m. To participate, sign up by 10 a.m. the day of the drop-in at www.rockvillemd.gov/FormCenter/City-Clerk-11/. Sign-up-for-Dropin-Meetings-227.

If you wish to submit comments in writing for community forum or public hearings, please email mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov by 10 a.m. on the day of. 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. To practice responsible social distancing, Mayor and Council meetings will be conducted by teleconference and broadcast on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, livestreamed at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11, and available a day after each meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand.

Charter Review Commission Turns Attention to City Elections

Commission Launches Online Questionnaire and Sets Town Hall Meeting for March

Rockville's Charter Review Commission is asking city residents for ideas about how to increase voter turnout, update the city's election process and engage more communities.

The commission is using an online questionnaire, and will hold a town hall meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 15 to gather community input about how to improve city elections for all. Save the date for the town hall meeting and watch the city's online calendar and social media for more details.

The questionnaire, at www.rockvillemd.gov/Charter-Review-Commission, presents a unique opportunity to share thoughts with the commission and help create meaningful change for the next decade. Responses will in-

form the commission's ongoing work. The deadline for responses is Friday, March 25.

Every decade or so, the Charter Review Commission looks at ways to update the charter so that it best serves all residents. In 2021, the Mayor and Council appointed 11 commissioners to review the city's charter, with a focus on examining city elections.

About 70% of registered voters in Rockville did not vote in the city's 2019 election. The next city election is in November 2023.

The charter is a legal document that is like a constitution. It outlines how the city is organized, runs elections, levies taxes, adopts ordinances, provides services and more. Find the charter at www.rockvillemd.gov/124/City-Code-Charter. ✚

City Academy Offers a Fresh Perspective of Rockville's Government, in Spanish

The Rockville City Academy returns in May, offering Spanish-speaking community members an opportunity to better understand how the City of Rockville operates, with a closer look at city departments and services. This session of the academy will be presented in Spanish only.

It will be comprised of four sessions that will connect participants with some of the city staff who help keep Rockville running. Sessions will be held 7:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, May 3-12, via Webex, allowing participation from the comfort and safety of home.

'Rockville City Academy' Ofrece Una Nueva Perspectiva Del Gobierno Del Ciudad, En Español

La Academia de la Ciudad de Rockville regresa en mayo, ofreciendo a los miembros de la comunidad de habla Hispana una oportunidad para comprender mejor cómo opera la Ciudad de Rockville con una mirada más cercana a los departamentos y servicios de la ciudad. En esta sesión, la academia se presentará solo en español.

Estará compuesto por cuatro sesiones que conectarán a los participantes con algunos miembros del personal de la ciudad que ayudan a que Rockville funcione. Las sesiones se llevarán a cabo de 7:30 a 8:30 p.m. los martes y jueves, del 3 al 12 de mayo, y permitirá la participación desde la comodidad y seguridad del hogar.

Topics will include:

- Understanding the city and how to voice your opinion.
- Housing and community services.
- Community-friendly policing.
- Recreation and resources for families and children.

Registration will be open from Monday, March 14-Friday, April 22 at www.rockvillemd.gov/academy. Spaces are limited. Participants must be 16 or older. Student Service Learning hours are available.

For more info, contact Hjarman Cordero at hcordero@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8344. ✚

Los temas incluirán:

- Cómo funciona de la ciudad y como dar su opinión.
- Vivienda y servicios comunitarios.
- Policía amigable y comunitaria.
- Recreación y recursos para las familias.

La inscripción estará abierta del lunes 14 de marzo al viernes 22 de abril en www.rockvillemd.gov/academy. Los espacios son limitados. Los participantes deben tener 16 años o más. Las horas de aprendizaje del servicio estudiantil (SSL) están disponibles.

Para obtener más información, comuníquese con Hjarman Cordero a hcordero@rockvillemd.gov o al 240-314-8344. ✚

What Would You Do If You Were Mayor?

Student Essay Contest Deadline is March 31

Rockville fourth graders once again have a chance to meet Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and imagine what they would do if they were mayor, by taking part in the Maryland Municipal League's statewide "If I Were Mayor" essay contest.

This year's theme is "Celebrating the Soul of Maryland." Students are asked to create a slogan that says what their hometown is all about. Students will write an essay of no more than 275 words that describes the facts, traits or cultural aspects of their hometown they would promote, as well as what they'd do to attract visitors.

One winning essay will be selected from each of MML's 11 districts. Winners will receive a cash prize and a citation from the governor and will be honored, along with their parents and teacher, during an awards ceremony in May.

The entry deadline is midnight Thursday, March 31. For more information, including contest rules and forms for submitting entries online, visit www.mdmunicipal.org/2022essay.

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

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



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www.youtube.com/cityofrockville

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 the Mayor and Council, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Volunteer** to be on a board or commission. Find ways to give of your time and talents at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.

Boards and Commissions

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

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

- **March 9 and 23 Planning Commission** 7 p.m. (Meetings will be held by teleconference. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details closer to the meeting dates.)

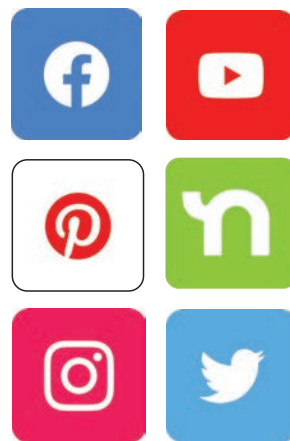
Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Board of Appeals (1)
- Cultural Arts Commission (1)
- Human Services Advisory Commission (3)
- Personnel Appeals Board (3)
- Planning Commission (3)

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

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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.

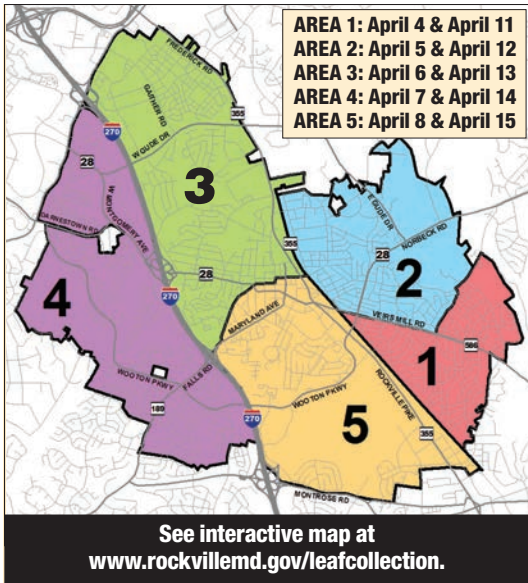
IMPORTANT NUMBERS: Main: 240-314-5000

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.



Raking News: Spring Leaf Collection in April

The city will vacuum leaves from neighborhood curbs from April 4-15 in five collection areas throughout Rockville.

An interactive map at www.rockvillemd.gov/leafcollection allows residents to input their address and learn when their leaves will be collected. Unlike the fall leaf collection, which has two collection rounds, city crews make only one pass to collect leaves in spring.

Rake leaves next to, but out of, roadways, gutters and bike lanes, and away from parked vehicles. Leaves should be raked by 6 a.m. on the first day of their collection period, but no earlier than one week before the collection dates to avoid grass damage or fire hazards. Remove sticks and other objects from leaf piles. Avoid parking near leaf piles or other vehicles.

After the collection period ends, use biodegradable paper lawn bags or 32-gallon trash cans (without plastic garbage bags) to set leaves out on your refuse and recycling collection day. Use alternative disposal methods such as mulching or composting. Do not dump leaves, grass clippings or other yard waste into storm drains, along stream banks or directly into streams, where they can cause blockages that contribute to localized flooding or release nutrients that lead to fish kills.

Do Your Bit to Deter Deer

Area wildlife helps maintain a healthy ecosystem but can become a nuisance. Here are a few ways to live with, and discourage, deer:

- Taste or odor repellent are humane forms of control designed to repel deer from an area. You can find repellents at sporting goods stores.
- Plant deer-resistant native plants.
- Install fencing and physical barriers.
- Do not feed the deer. (Feeding wildlife can do more harm than good.)

For general deer-related information, call Rockville's Parks and Facilities Division at 240-314-8700. To report dead or injured deer, call the Rockville City Police Department's non-emergency line at 240-314-8900.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/1084/wildlife-management for more information.

Lights Out for Climate Change Action

Rockville will turn out the lights in observance of Earth Hour, an international effort in support of climate change action. Earth Hour encourages people to turn off all non-essential lights in their homes and businesses for one hour, from 8:30-9:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 26. The city will participate by turning off all non-essential lights at the city's Gude maintenance facility. Learn more and find ways to participate in Earth Hour every day at www.earthhour.org/take-part.

Earth Month, All Spring, in Rockville



Earth Day 2022 is Friday, April 22 and Rockville has an important environmental milestone to celebrate this year. Rockville joined the ranks of hundreds of U.S. cities on Jan. 10 as the Mayor and Council approved the city's first plan for addressing climate change. Read more at www.rockville.gov/climate.

Rockville will celebrate Earth Month and the adoption of the Climate Action Plan with events from March through May, including the following free activities:

- Monday, March 7:** The Mayor and Council are scheduled to issue a proclamation recognizing Earth Hour and Earth Day in Rockville during their 7 p.m. meeting.
- Thursday, March 10:** How to Maintain a Healthy, Organic Lawn (virtual). 7 p.m. Learn how to maintain an organic lawn without synthetic fertilizers or pesticides, understand soil health, and discuss organic soil amendments with Mary Travaglini of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection. Register at bit.ly/OrganicLawnCare2022. This is part of the Climate Solutions Speaker Series. *See the article on this page for more information.*
- Saturday, March 19:** Go Electric, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

at Montgomery College, Rockville Campus, Campus Drive. Join the clean electric energy revolution. Learn about electric leaf blowers, electric cars, energy bill savings, solar rebates, and more. Visit mygreenmontgomery.org/event/goelectric.

Saturday, March 26: Earth Hour. *See the article on this page.*

Ongoing Opportunities

- Plog Rockville.** Pledge to clean up litter while you walk, jog or run through Rockville and receive a free plogging bag while supplies last. For more details and to take the pledge, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/environment.
- Self-Guided Litter Cleanup.** Volunteer to complete a self-guided litter cleanup to help keep Rockville free of trash and earn Student Service Learning hours while doing it. Learn more and register at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.
- Weed Warrior Workdays.** Join Rockville Weed Warrior Leaders for a non-native, invasive plant removal workday. SSL hours available. Space is limited. Find upcoming events and register at www.rockvillemd.gov/weedwarriors.

It's Electric! (This Month in Rockville)

Learn About EVs and Green Energy Incentives

March presents opportunities to join the City of Rockville and other Montgomery County partners in getting charged up about the future of clean electric energy.

Rockville is a partner in Montgomery County's Electric Vehicle Purchasing Co-op, and you can help lead the charge toward electric vehicles and support the city's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the community and municipal government operations by 50% below 2005 levels by 2030, to reach net zero by 2050. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/zev to learn about the co-op and pledge to make your next vehicle an electric vehicle.

Learn how to join the clean electric energy revolution at **Go Electric, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, March 19** at Montgomery College,

Rockville Campus, Campus Drive. The event will offer opportunities to tour electric cars and a Ride On electric bus, learn about car-charging systems, sample sustainable and plant-based food, recycle gas-powered yard equipment and small appliances for free, and turn in old lightbulbs for up to three free light-emitting diode bulbs.

Homeowners, property managers, renters, landscapers, car enthusiasts and builders will all find something useful, including information about discounts and rebates on electric leaf blowers, solar charging and installation incentives for buildings, how to switch from fossil fuels to sustainable electric sources, and other county green energy initiatives.

Visit mygreenmontgomery.org/event/goelectric.

Rockville Science Day to Return with Rockets, Robots and Reptiles

Save the Date for Sunday, April 24

Rockville Science Day is back.

After a two-year pandemic pause, the free popular event returns for an afternoon of rockets, robots, reptiles, chemistry and more from noon-5 p.m. Sunday, April 24 at Montgomery College, Rockville Campus, 51 Mannakee St.

The 31st annual Rockville Science Day offers a chance to experience science hands-on, with science and technology-related exhibits, activities, games and demonstrations from more than 70 local organizations and businesses.

Activities and exhibits include building and launching rockets, telescopes, robots and backyard wildlife, microscopes, snakes, stream science, Civil War medical practice, coding challenges, math puzzles, chemistry in action, electric vehicles, quadcopters, archaeology mini-digs, 3D printing and brain games.

Volunteers are needed. Student Service Learning hours are available for students 16 and older who help set up on Saturday and with exhibits on Sunday. Learn more, register an exhibit or offer to volunteer at www.rockvillesciencecenter.org/rscd.

rockvillesciencecenter.org/rscd.

Can't Wait for Science Day?

The Rockville Science Center sponsors online science presentations the second and third Tuesday of every month. For something a bit more hands-on, the center hosts classes and engaging activities, such as a new family chess club. Open discussion periods are on Thursday evenings and STEM Activities Day is monthly on a Saturday.

Activities are held in the center's storefront at 36C Maryland Ave. in Rockville Town Square and in the Makerspace at Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave.

The center also hosts spring break and summer camps at its storefront home and in schools and recreation centers. Learn more about these and other upcoming events at www.rockvillesciencecenter.org.

RSC is a nonprofit supported by the generous donations of its members and sponsors, including the City of Rockville. Learn more about supporting the center at www.rockvillesciencecenter.org/supporter.

Organic Lawn Care Leads Off as Climate Solutions Speaker Series Sprouts This Spring

March means the launch of Rockville's Climate Solutions Speaker Series, featuring a look at how organic lawn care can lead to a healthier environment and lawn.

Other series speakers will explore sustainable landscaping and a net-zero energy home.

The series kickoff, **"How to Maintain a Healthy, Organic Lawn" at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 10**, features Mary Travaglini, manager of the organic lawn and landscape program for the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection. Travaglini will present practical lawn care steps you can take to reduce your carbon footprint and help protect Rockville's environment.



For more information, and to register for this online presentation, visit bit.ly/OrganicLawnCare2022.

Thursday, April 7: "Sustainable Home Landscaping 101," 7-8 p.m. Virtual. Learn first steps and practical tips for creating a beautiful and sustainable home garden with Beth Ginter, executive director of the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council. Topics will include planning and design tips, choosing plants, using natives and reducing invasives, and creating wildlife habitat. Register at bit.ly/SustainableLandscaping2022.

continued on pg. 7...

GO GREEN IN YOUR INBOX ... Get regular updates about the city's environmental efforts and events, including news about Rockville's first Climate Action Plan, and tips for living greener year-round. Sign up for the "Environment and Sustainability News" email newsletter at www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters.

Register Now for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Training

The city's Human Rights Commission presents its annual IDEA Leadership Workshop for students from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, April 23.

The IDEA — which stands for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access — Leadership Workshop is open to students living in and attending Rockville-area high schools or Montgomery College, Rockville Campus. The dynamic, interactive online training will provide students with tools to recognize prejudice, stereotypes, and bias; navigate difficult situations with an understanding of diverse populations; and foster an environment of inclusion and belonging in and outside of their schools.



Student Service Learning credits will be offered.

For more information or to register, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/HRC or contact Ali Hoy at 240-314-8304 or ahoy@rockvillemd.gov.

Students will receive information for joining the training after they register. ✚



Recycling and Refuse Workers Wanted!



Help Make a Difference in the Community!

- Commercial Driver's License Required
- \$3,000 Recruitment Bonus & Retention Incentive
- Job Stability & Great Benefits
- Opportunities for Learning and Promotion

To Apply: www.governmentjobs.com/careers/rockville
Search: Sanitation

City's Financial Assistance Program Can Help in an Emergency

Need Financial Help? Facing Eviction?

Utilities about to be shut off? Need help paying for prescription medication?

Emergency financial assistance through the Rockville Emergency Assistance Program is available to eligible Rockville residents facing a financial crisis.

Depending on eligibility, REAP assistance may also be available for funeral and medical expenses. Referrals for emergency food, clothing, financial/employment counseling and other assistance are also provided.

All applicants for financial assistance must have a court-issued notice of evic-

tion or notice of pending disconnection, and must apply to the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. Montgomery County DHHS will submit a referral to the City of Rockville Community Services Division on behalf of eligible city residents.

For more information on REAP, including how to apply, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/reap. To donate to the REAP program and help neighbors in need, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/donate. One-hundred percent of donated funds go to Rockville families. ✚



Pause for Pedestrians: City Installs Flashing Beacons for Safer Street Crossing

Rockville is sporting flashier crosswalks in recent months as the city installs flashing beacons to improve pedestrian safety.

The beacons are flashing yellow lights attached to crosswalk signs at either end of a crosswalk. They bring attention to crosswalks that don't have stop signs or signals and are designed to alert drivers that a pedestrian is at the crosswalk. The beacons aren't stop signs or stop lights, but drivers are required to come to a complete stop when a person is using the crosswalk.

The city installed beacons at the intersection of Great Falls Road and Monument Avenue in summer 2020 and this fall at a crosswalk on Wootton Parkway in front of Thomas S. Wootton High School.

The beacons work similarly to a signalized crosswalk. People needing to cross

the street press the button to activate the beacons. Once the lights are flashing, they should look for oncoming motor vehicle traffic and, when it is clear, cross the street as they normally would, using the crosswalk.

Maryland law requires drivers to come to a stop when a person is crossing the roadway in a crosswalk on the same half of the roadway, or in an adjacent lane. Pedestrians must take care not to walk into the path of an approaching vehicle if it is so close that it is impossible for the driver to stop.

A flashing beacon means a person is at the crosswalk. Drivers should slow to a complete stop so that the person may cross the street safely. Once the person has reached the sidewalk on the other side of the street, vehicular traffic can proceed. ✚

Working on a Historic Property? You Could Qualify for a Tax Credit

Restoring or repairing the outside of a historic home or preserving the exterior of a historic structure? You could be eligible for a property tax credit.

Rockville participates in the tax credit program for local structures designated as historic. The city is now accepting applications for work completed in calendar year 2021.

If your property in Rockville is designated by the city as historic and you spent at least \$1,000 on exterior maintenance between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2021, you may be eligible for reduction of your property taxes for the coming year, up to 25% of approved expenses.

Eligible projects include:

- Exterior painting.

- Uncovering and repairing original siding.
- Repairing roofs or replacing them in-kind.
- Repointing brick or stone foundations, or chimneys.
- Repairing windows, architectural trim or ornament.
- Repairing and maintaining outbuildings, such as barns and garages.
- Restoring a documented feature, such as a dormer or porch that was previously altered or removed.

For more information, contact 240-314-8230 or history@rockvillemd.gov.

Applications must be received by Monday, April 18 at history@rockvillemd.gov or Rockville Historic Preservation, City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. ✚

County to Provide Free, Virtual Tax Preparation Appointments through VITA

Montgomery County is hosting free, virtual tax preparation sessions throughout tax season for low- to moderate-income families that earned \$58,000 or less in 2021.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, which is run by the Montgomery County Community Action Agency, provides IRS-certified volunteers from nonprofit and public agencies who can help low- to moderate-income families maximize their tax refunds and credits, including the Earned Income Tax Credit, and e-file their federal and state tax forms.

The program is using virtual tax preparation during the COVID-19 emergency that allows county residents to securely upload their tax documents and have their taxes prepared for free by a certified tax preparer. No in-person contact is required.

Virtual appointments are available by calling 240-777-1123 or via montgomerycountymd.gov/cashback/schedule.html. TTY users can call Maryland Relay 711.

For more info, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cashback or email VITA@montgomerycountymd.gov.

RHE Opens Wait List for Public Housing Program

Rockville Housing Enterprises will open its public-housing program and project-based voucher unit wait list in March for one, two, three and four bedroom units.

Applicants can sign up online-only for the wait list, which will be available from 9 a.m. Wednesday, March 16 to 5 p.m. Friday, March 18, at myportal.rockvillehe.org.

Applicants will be required to provide contact information, including an email address for the application process, and details about income sources and household members. For more info, email ptardy@rockvillehe.org or call 301-424-6265.

For more information about RHE, visit www.rockvillehe.org.



Help Make Rockville More Walkable!

The City of Rockville is developing its first Pedestrian Master Plan.

The plan will help guide the development, construction and maintenance of safe, convenient and equitable pedestrian facilities across the city.

Help envision – and design – the future of walking in Rockville.

Take our survey, engage with us and stay informed at engagerockville.com/pedestrian-master-plan



TAKE THE SURVEY
REALIZA LA ENCUESTA
参加调查



SIGN UP FOR THE CITY'S MANY NEWSLETTERS –

from environment to our newest volunteer news!

www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters



TOILETS AREN'T TRASH CANS ... Rockville has a flushing problem. Increasing amounts of unflushable trash are clogging city sewer lines – and can clog pipes in your home, creating a costly mess. The “unflushables” include items you might not think of: Did you know “flushable” wipes really aren't? Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/dontflushtrash to learn more about what to flush, what not to, and what happens when unflushables get flushed. Warning: It's gross.

Peerless Presents Indian Dance and a Mother-Daughter Story in March

Peerless Rockville this month explores classical dances of India and, in honor of Women's History Month, the story of a mother and daughter from Rockville who dared to defy gender restrictions.

The Glenview Mansion and Peerless Rockville Speaker Series presents "A Dance Yaatra or Journey" at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 10 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive. This free special event offers a glimpse into the world of classical dance styles of India. Presented by the Indian Dance Educators Association, the program will showcase dance styles dating back centuries that are steeped in mythology, history, religion, spirituality and rigorous artistic training, as well as how each region of India spawned dance styles that reflect the region's culture, language and clothing. Register at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration with course #20650 or at www.peerlessrockville.org.

Peerless will also present the story of a pioneering mother and daughter from Rockville as part of its "Women Who Dared" series at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 24. The presentation, via Zoom, will share the inspirational stories of Clara Finley and her daughter Bliss Finley, Rockville residents who did not let the restrictions placed on women by late 19th- and early 20th-century society hold them back. Clara was a divorced mother with a young child who attended medical school and became a pioneering doctor and supporter of women's rights and childhood education. Bliss was prominently featured in society columns as a young woman. As she matured, she used her connections to help organize and inspire working women to stand up for the right to vote.

Register for this virtual program at www.peerlessrockville.org.



Spring into Adventure with Rockville's Spring Activities Guides

"Life in Rockville" and "Adults 60+," the city's guides to recreational programs, are out and packed with the promise of spring! General registration begins Thursday, March 3. Find dozens of things to do from March to May: sports and leagues for all ages; aquatics and fitness programs; virtual events and classes; and much more.

"Adults 60+," a publication of the Rockville Senior Center, lists programs for Rockville's older adults, including computer classes, educational courses, arts courses and health seminars.

Adventure awaits inside the Summer Camp guide. Park Adventure Camps, for kids aged 5-12, will be open from June 21 until mid-August at 10 locations throughout Rockville. The guide also contains specialty and teen camps. Registration opens Thursday, March 10. (See the ad on page 8.)

Proper health and safety protocols will be followed for all in-person programs.

See the guides at www.rockvillemd.gov/life. To register for programs, courses and events, and to browse listings of what the city has to offer, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.



Happiness, Hearts and Help: This Month, at the Senior Center

Stay home and stay healthy with free online seminars from the Rockville Senior Center in March.

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

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

Your Heart, Your Life Series

Providing information virtually for understanding, skill building, self-assessment and goal setting for healthy lifestyle changes. Presented by Adventist HealthCare.

Session 6: Keep Your Heart in Mind. Aim for a Healthy Weight. Course #21010. Tuesday, March 1.

Jin Shin Jyutsu Self Help: For Optimum Health and Healing

Jin Shin Jyutsu (pronounced "jitsu") is an ancient art using the body's energy for optimal health and healing. Simple self-help will be explained for daily maintenance, strengthening the immune system and preventing stomach aches, colds, eye problems and more.

Course #20999. Tuesday, March 8, 1-2:30 p.m.

All About Compression Socks

Akukeng Mba specializes in foot issues and will discuss what compression socks are, when and how to use them, and their benefits.

Course #20995. Thursday, March 10.

What Science Tells Us About Happiness!

March 20 is International Day of Happiness. This workshop discusses how engagement in life can increase satisfaction, happiness and longevity. Presented by Adventist HealthCare.

Course #21007. Thursday, March 17.

Better Breathers Club

Group meets on third Thursdays of the month, through the American Lung Association, to share educational information about breathing issues, plus tips and suggestions to improve quality of life.

Course #21062. Thursday, March 17.

Financial Fitness: Planning for Transitions

What you need to know about organizing and implementing important financial and health-care documents. Learn what documents and instructions to prepare for family or friends in case of illness, incapacitation or death.

Presented by Barbara Multz, vice president and senior trust officer, Sandy Spring Trust.

Course #21646. Wednesday, March 23, 1-2:30 p.m.

All About GERD

Are you suffering from chronic acid reflux or heartburn? If you have heartburn twice a week or more, you may have gastroesophageal reflux disease — GERD. Learn more about this condition, potential complications and treatment from gastroenterologist Dr. Gary Roggin.

Course #21713. Thursday, March 24. ✚

Know anyone 60+ who needs our help?

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

CONNECT THEM WITH US!



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

- ✓ Food & Financial Assistance
- ✓ Counseling & Outreach
- ✓ Support
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Connecting with Peers
- ✓ Grocery Shopping
- ✓ Home Maintenance
- ✓ Health, Wellness, Technology & Education
- ✓ Medical Equipment Loans

Performances and Art, this Month at the Civic Center

Magic and wonder, a retrospective on the COVID-19 pandemic, and art are coming up this month at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Glenview Mansion Art Gallery, 603 Edmonston Drive.

Victorian Lyric Opera Company Presents 'Iolanthe'

Showtimes are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 4 and 5; and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 6. Tickets: \$28; \$26, seniors; \$24, students.

A world of magic, wonder and fairies is not so far from our own, as young Strephon knows all too well. Aided by his band of immortal fairies, including his mother, Iolanthe, Strephon attempts to woo the beautiful Phyllis, but the influential Lord Chancellor has other plans.

The show features some of Gilbert and Sullivan's most memorable tunes, including "When Britain Ruled the Waves" and "Loudly Let the Trumpets Bray." Directed by Jacklyn and Kathie Rogers. Music direction by Joseph Sorge.

Learn more at www.vloc.org.

Rockville Concert Band Presents 'The Year 2020'

The world premiere of a commissioned piece by Johan de Meij at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 13. Conducted by music director Juan Gallastegui. The piece honors those lost to COVID-19 and offers a breath of hope as we head to the future.

Admission is free, but tickets will be required.

Maximum of four per household.

Glenview Mansion Art Gallery: "Lost, Found, and Looking Forward" Exhibit

"Lost, Found, and Looking Forward" will be on exhibition from Sunday, March 20-Friday, May 6. Meet the artists from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 20.

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

Rockville Civic Ballet Presents 'Cinderella'

Eleanor Simpson and Erin Kwong direct "Cinderella," 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 26 and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 27. Tickets are \$17; \$13 for children 12 and younger and seniors 60 and older.

Safety & Ticket Details

Unless announced otherwise, face coverings are mandatory for all visitors to Rockville facilities, as the city continues its efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19. The requirement applies to all staff and visitors aged 2 and older, whatever their vaccination status. Social distancing will be in place.

Buy tickets online and learn more about performances and events at Rockville Civic Center Park: Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre; call 240-314-8690; or visit the box office, 2-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. For more info, email theatre@rockville.md.gov. ✚

Watch Mayor and Council Proclamation on Rockville II

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



MONDAY, MARCH 7 at 7 p.m.



WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING THIS MONTH? March is packed — not only is it Women's History Month, March celebrates the American Red Cross, Irish-American heritage, middle level education, youth art and music in our schools. It's also National Celery Month, which tangentially fits with March as National Nutrition Month, as well as National Professional Social Work Month. (St. Patrick's Day is Thursday, March 17. Have fun but be responsible!)

MARCH CALENDAR

FACILITIES LEGEND:

- CC** Croydon Creek Nature Ctr., 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 Ctr., 357 Frederick Ave., 240-314-8780.

- CH** Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., 240-314-5000.
- SR** Rockville Senior Ctr., 1150 Carnation Dr., 240-314-8800.
- SFC** Rockville Swim and Fitness Ctr., 355 Martins Lane, 240-314-8750.
- TF** Thomas Farm Community Ctr., 700 Falls Grove Dr., 240-314-8840.
- TC** Twinbrook Comm. Rec. Ctr., 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., 240-314-8830.

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



1 V **YOUR HEART, YOUR LIFE SERIES: SESSION 6** See article on page 6. Presented by Adventist HealthCare. Course #21010. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

1,15 V **POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM: INCREASING MOTIVATION** Group discussion of the book "Rethinking Positive Thinking: Inside the New Science of Motivation," by Gabrielle Oettingen. Meets first and third Tuesdays. Register with course #21091. 2:30-4 p.m. **SR**

3 **SPRING RECREATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION OPENS.** See article on page 6.

3 V **FINANCIAL FITNESS** Planning for transitions. Learn about organizing and implementing important financial and healthcare documents in case of illness, incapacitation or death. Course #21646. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

3 **WINTER WANDERS FOR ADULTS: BUD BREAK HIKE** Enjoy an easy hike through the Hayes Forest Preserve while you learn about the environment. Program is entirely outdoors. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Ages 18 and older. Registration required with course #21230. \$5 R/\$6 NM. 11 a.m.-noon. **CC**

3,10,17,24,31 V **GRUPO DE APOYO HISPANO** Las personas mayores pueden compartir sus miedos y frustraciones; recibir apoyo sin juzgar; creando un espacio para compartir sentimientos. Guiado José Hernández, terapeuta bilingüe de Affiliated Santé Group. Noon-1 p.m. **SR**

4,5,6 **VICTORIAN LYRIC OPERA COMPANY PRESENTS "IOLANTHE"** \$28; \$26, seniors; \$24, students. See article on page 6. **FSF**

4,11 V **DECLUTTERING** Discover effective ways to declutter with this virtual eight-week course. Course #21239. 11 a.m.-noon. **SR**

7 V **MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING** 7 p.m.

7,21 V **MEMORY CAFÉ** Alzheimer's Association Memory Cafes offer a fun and relaxed way for people living with early-stage memory loss to connect through social events that promote interaction and companionship. Meets first and third Monday of the month. Must contact representative Sheila Griffith at 240-844-3608 or sagriffith@alz.org before attending. Register with course #21020. Noon-1 p.m. **SR**

8 V **JIN SHIN JYUTSU SELF HELP: FOR OPTIMUM HEALTH AND HEALING** See article on page 6. Course #20999. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

8,22 V **BRAIN GAMES** Work your brain and compete with peers in various games and puzzles. Meets second and fourth Tuesdays. Register with course #21088. 2:30-4 p.m. **SR**

10 **SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION OPENS.** See article on page 6.

10 **ALL ABOUT COMPRESSION SOCKS** See the article on page 6. Course #20995. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

10 **THE GLENVIEW MANSION AND PEERLESS ROCKVILLE SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS "A DANCE YAATRA OR JOURNEY"** See article on page 6. Course #20650. 7 p.m. **FSF**

10 V **HOW TO MAINTAIN A HEALTHY, ORGANIC LAWN** Learn how to maintain an organic lawn without synthetic fertilizers or pesticides, understand soil health, and discuss organic soil amendments with Mary Travaglini of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection. See the article on page 4. 7 p.m.

13 **ROCKVILLE CONCERT BAND PRESENTS "THE YEAR 2020"** See article on page 6. 3 p.m. **FSF**

14,16,21,23 V **INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS** Learn the skills you need to become an options trader. Work live on a paper trading account during class. No money is involved. Course #21710. 1:30-3:30 p.m. **SR**

17 V **BETTER BREATHERS CLUB** See the article on page 6. Meets third Thursdays. Register with course #21062. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

17 V **WHAT SCIENCE TELLS US ABOUT HAPPINESS!** See the article on page 6. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

19 **LITTLE EXPLORERS** Go on hiking adventures with naturalists, play games and discover the fun that can be had outdoors. Spaces limited. Dress for the weather and wear a mask. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 2-5. Registration required. \$8/\$10. 9:30-10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.-noon. **CC**

19 **GO ELECTRIC!** Join the clean electric energy revolution. Learn about electric leaf blowers, electric cars, energy bill savings, solar rebates and more. Visit www.mygreenmontgomery.org/events for more. See the Earth Month article on page 4. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Montgomery College, Rockville Campus.

20 **FAMILIES OUTSIDE: SIGNS OF SPRING HIKE** Explore the habitats of the John Hayes Forest Preserve with naturalist-led family nature outings to enjoy the wonders surrounding the center. Adults and children must register. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 3 and older. Course #21217. \$5 R/\$6 NR. 2-3 p.m. **CC**

21 V **MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORK SESSION** 7 p.m.

23 V **FINANCIAL FITNESS** See the article on page 6. Course #21646. 1-2:30 p.m.

24 V **ALL ABOUT GERD** See the article on page 6. Course #21713. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

26 **EARTH HOUR** An international effort in support of climate change action. See the article on page 4. Learn more at www.earthhour.org/take-part. 8:30-9:30 p.m.

26,27 **ROCKVILLE CIVIC BALLET PRESENTS "CINDERELLA"** \$17; \$13 for children 12 and younger and seniors 60 and older. See article on page 6. **FSF**

28 **MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING** 7 p.m.

28 V **WOMEN WHO DARED** See article on page 6. 7 p.m.

31 V **SELF-TALK** The benefits of positive self-talk, including having mantras as reminders of what's important. Share what works and learn what works for others. Course #21092. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

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

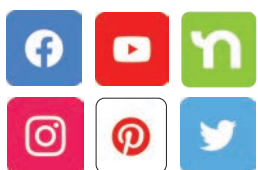
FOR MORE INFO AND UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTINGS: WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/CALENDAR.ASPX

COVID-19 Updates

continued from pg. 1...

Information about testing and vaccinations can be found on Montgomery County's COVID-19 information portal at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19. **+**

Connect with us on Social Media.



Climate Solutions Speakers Series

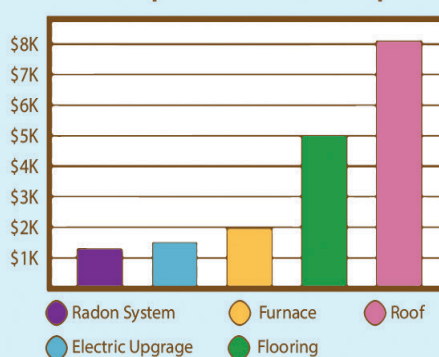
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Thursday, May 12: "Building and Living in Montgomery County's First Certified Net Zero Energy Home." 7-8 p.m. Virtual. A middle-income family living in a 1951 Twinbrook Cape Cod remodeled their home to be 100% powered by the sun. Learn from Clark Reed, chair of the Rockville Environment Commission, how his home became Montgomery County's first certified net-zero energy home, using colonial architectural features to improve climate resiliency. Register at bit.ly/NetZeroHome2022.

For future lectures, in the fall, see www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.aspx and future issues of "Rockville Reports." **+**

Test. Fix. Save a life.

Estimated Improvement Cost Comparisons



Source: Colorado Department of Health & Environment

Did you know?

Protecting your family from **radon induced lung cancer** can be one of the least expensive home improvements you can make this spring!



epa.gov/radon

Memorial Day Parade Participants and Speakers Wanted

Save the Date for the City's Memorial Day Weekend Celebration

The city's 78th annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade will take place 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, May 30, in Town Center.

Applications to participate in the parade are available at www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 1.

The city is seeking speakers for the Memorial Day ceremony. Rockville and Montgomery County residents who have retired from, or currently serve in, the United States military are eligible to take part in the ceremony. Volunteer speakers must be comfortable speaking in public and must prepare a five- to seven-minute speech about their experiences in the armed forces, including what it means to serve and to honor those who have served.

Contact Amanda Knox at aknox@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8604 to participate or learn more.

The parade and ceremony will cap off a weekend that will see Rockville residents reunite with neighbors as its annual Memorial Day weekend festival moves to RedGate Park, 14500 Avery Road. Hometown Holidays: A Community Gathering will offer local entertainment, excellent food and a laid-back way to ease into summer and city special events.

The free festival will feature local flavor, including two stages of entertainment by local acts, a Taste of Rockville from local restaurants and activities for kids, from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, May 28 and Sunday, May 29.

Find more details, as they are announced, at www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH and "City of Rockville Hometown Holidays" on Facebook.

Performers and Sponsors Wanted for Rockville Pride

Rockville is seeking performers and sponsors to help celebrate its LGBTQ community during the sixth annual Rockville Pride festival.

Rockville Pride will feature a virtual event on Sunday June 5, and a celebration in Rockville Town Square Park from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, June 26.

Interested in performing or becoming a sponsor? Contact Ali Hoy at 240-314-8304 or ahoy@rockvillemd.gov.

Find more information about Pride, as details become available, at www.rockvillemd.gov/pride.



Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

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

Meet Rockville Employees: The Recycling and Refuse Team



Rockville's outstanding recycling and refuse team serves more than 14,300 homes each week. The team also helps with snow removal during winter weather emergencies.

Who's on the team?

Our team includes sanitation workers and operators, supervisors, and the recycling/refuse superintendent. Fifteen veteran team members have more than 200 years of combined service to Rockville. The city is recruiting sanitation workers to join our team. (See the ad on page 5 for details).

What does the team do?

The team operates recycling and refuse trucks that provide weekly recycling, trash and yard waste collections for more than 3,200 single-family and townhomes per day – more than 14,300 homes a week. Teams work in inclement weather to ensure the community receives this essential city service. This is a skilled and physically demanding job and safety is the team's priority.

That's a big job. Is there anything customers can do to help the team?

When in doubt, throw it out. Nonrecyclable material in the recycling stream can damage recycling equipment or contaminate recyclable material. Find a list of recy-

clable materials at www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash. If you're not sure if it's recyclable, put it in the gray trash cart.

Also remember: When in doubt, set it out. During weeks that include a city holiday, your recycling, trash and yard waste collections may occur one day later that week. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/301/holiday-schedules for holiday collection schedules.

Anything else we should know?

Please remember to be extra careful around workers. Slow down when you drive around a stopped trash truck or other utility vehicle. Maryland's "Slow Down to Get Around" law protects recycling and trash collection crews by requiring drivers to change lanes as they approach stopped utility vehicles, or to slow to a "reasonable and prudent speed" when passing. The law applies to tow trucks, law enforcement, emergency response vehicles, transportation, service and utility vehicles, including recycling and trash trucks.

Learn more about recycling, trash and yard waste collections and more, including holiday collection schedules and how to schedule special collections, at www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash.



Get Into It

City Manager: Rob DiSpirito
Deputy City Manager: Angela Judge
Director of Communication: Kathy Kirk-Dantzler

Rockville Reports is the official publication of the City of Rockville, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. It is delivered to all homes and businesses within Rockville's city limits. Any individuals with disabilities who would like to receive the information in this publication in another form may contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at 240-314-8100; TTY 240-314-8137. Have an idea for "Rockville Reports"? Email pio@rockvillemd.gov.

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BACK IN THE DAY ... A decade ago, Rockville's summer camps were celebrating a half century of bringing sunshine adventures to kids. When camps started in 1962, according to the January 2012 edition of "Rockville Reports," only a handful of families took part. Today, camps are still going strong and thousands of children attend (see the ad on this page).

EXPLORE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES WORKING FOR A GREAT CITY

we're hiring

Multiple laborer positions are available, including:

- Maintenance Workers
- Sanitation Workers/Operators
- Tree Climbers

Plus, other positions throughout city government. Offering great benefits and health care.

COME JOIN OUR TEAM!

More Information:

rockvillemd.gov/careers

ROCKVILLE SUMMER CAMPS GUIDE

Coming Soon



Look for the Summer Camp Guide – at rockvillemd.gov/guide, Rockville Recreation Centers or at a Rockville library.

REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 10



ROCKVILLE TOWN SQUARE PARKING UPDATE

2 HOURS OF FREE PARKING



NO VALIDATION REQUIRED