



RockvilleReports

MARCH 2023 • VOL. 68 #3



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Mayor and Council Add Two Seats to City Council

Unanimously Adopt Resolution to Amend Charter

Voters in Rockville's November 2023 election will have the opportunity to vote for seven members of the city's elected body, following a unanimous vote Feb. 6 by the Mayor and Council on a resolution to add two seats to the council.

The Mayor and Council adopted a resolution that will amend the city's charter to increase the number of elected councilmembers from four to six, one of the recommendations to come from a review of Rockville's charter by the Charter Review Commission.

The amendment will formally become part of the city charter on Tuesday, March 28, the 50th day following the Feb. 6 vote, unless on or before the 40th day following adoption of the resolution a petition is presented to the Mayor and Council signed by 20% or more registered Rockville voters. (The petition must meet require-

ments prescribed in Article V, Section 2 of the charter.)

Other CRC recommendations include lowering the voting age from 18 to 16, permitting city residents who are not United States citizens to vote, setting term limits, creating representative districts, creating an administrative process to fill a vacancy on the council, changing election years to coincide with presidential or gubernatorial elections, and implementing ranked-choice voting.

The Mayor and Council were scheduled to discuss the recommendations with the Charter Review Commission and provide next steps during their Feb. 27 meeting, held after the deadline for this issue of "Rockville Reports."

Find staff reports and video of the Feb. 6 and Feb. 27 meetings at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. ❖

Mayor and Council to Consider Regulations for Short-Term and Residential Room Rentals

The Mayor and Council will meet Monday, March 6 and further discuss whether to initiate a public review that could lead to regulating short-term rentals in the city, such as AirBnB and VRBO, as well as the rental of rooms within a residence.

The intent of the proposed changes is to clarify when short-term rentals are permitted. Proposed conditions include limitations on the number of days per year that a unit may be rented and the number of rental unit guests.

The public review process would be initiated if the Mayor and Council introduce the draft ordinances.

Should the regulations be adopted, landlords would be required to register units with the city and be subject to the city's hotel tax. The city's zoning ordinance allows up to two people to

occupy a dwelling in addition to the resident family. This has been interpreted to permit up to two rooms to be rented to individuals who are not family members.

At present, there are no requirements related to safety inspections, or for such rentals to be subject to the city's landlord-tenant ordinance. The proposed regulations would require that rental of rooms be licensed and subject to regular inspection, as the rental of residences are currently.

Draft versions of the city code and zoning ordinance amendments will be available as part of the Mayor and Council agenda packet for the March 6 meeting, when posted, at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

For more information, contact Jim Wasilak, zoning administrator, at 240-314-8211 or by email at jwasilak@rockvillemd.gov. ❖

PARTICIPATE IN THE CITY'S FY 2024 BUDGET PROCESS

Help Shape Our Community

Taxes • Community Services • Utility Rates

TAKE THE CITY OF ROCKVILLE

FY 2024 Budget Priorities Survey

Public participation in the budget process is a high priority for the Mayor and Council and city staff. By completing the 2024 Budget Priorities Survey, you are providing valuable input to the Mayor and Council for their FY24 budget discussions.



Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget



FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE FY 2024 BUDGET, SEE "BUDGET WATCH" ON PAGE 2.

A community budget priorities survey is available in English, simplified Chinese, French, Korean and Spanish at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget. The survey allows community members to identify their budget priorities and options for maintaining a balanced budget.

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COMPLETE LA ENCUESTA

Presupuesto de la Ciudad de Rockville Para el Año Fiscal 2024

La participación pública en el proceso del presupuesto 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 2024, estará proporcionando comentarios valiosos a la Alcaldesa y al Consejo para sus discusiones sobre el presupuesto para el año fiscal 2024.



Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget



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

'Rockville Means Business' Event to Highlight How Vendors Can Work with City Government

Rockville's Procurement Division will host an event in April offering vendors the opportunity to learn more about doing business with city government.

Registration is now open for "Rockville Means Business" on Thursday, April 20 at Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. The event, from 9 a.m.-noon, will feature information sessions and exhibits by city departments giving vendors the opportunity to interact with City of Rockville staff. A continental breakfast will be available.

The event will also be available online for those unable to attend in person.

Sessions will include an overview of the city's new e-bidding system and vendor collaboration portal, strategies for doing business with the city, and tips for responding to city solicitations.

Minority-, female-, disabled- or veteran-owned businesses are especially encouraged to attend.

Seats are limited. For more information and to register, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/procurement. ❖

In This Issue...

- 3** Preserving Rockville's History
- 4** Earth Month for Early Birds
- 5** Zoning 101
- 6** International Night Returns

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

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ECR WSS
LOCAL
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Rockville Utilities

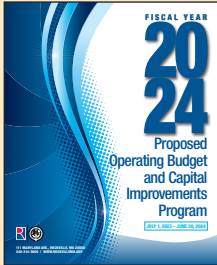
Rockville's four utility funds are enterprise funds. They function like a private business, with costs fully recovered through user charges. The utility funds are the water fund, the sewer fund, the refuse fund, and the stormwater management fund.

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.

The city's rate structure is based on property classification, namely single family, multifamily, and nonresidential, to distribute, as equitably as possible, the cost of providing water and sewer service. For a table showing water and sewer usage charges for each classification, see page 376 of the proposed budget at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.

The budget includes a proposed \$24 annual increase in the refuse and recycling rate, to \$503 per household. The stormwater management rate would increase by \$8, to \$146 for the year.

Budget Survey
Take it Today!

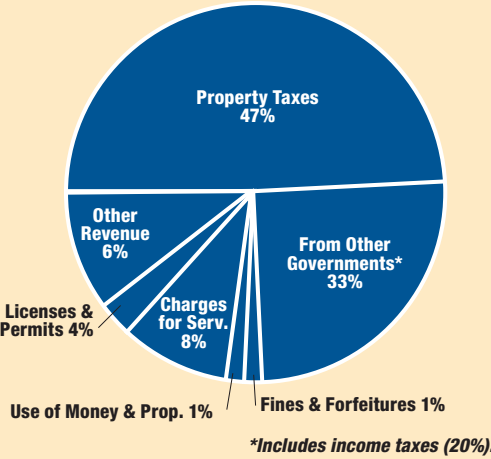


OFFER YOUR IDEAS

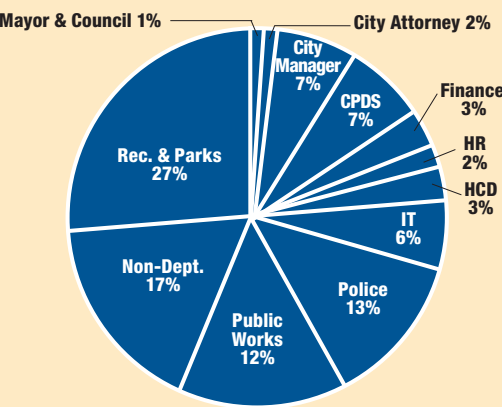
- Using the budget survey, in English, simplified Chinese, French, Korean and Spanish at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.
- At public hearings during the Mayor and Council meetings on March 6 and April 17.

Understanding
the General Fund

Proposed FY24
General Fund Revenues



Proposed FY24
General Fund Expenditures



Budget Watch: Fiscal Year 2024

Rockville's Mayor and Council continue budget deliberations this month with a public hearing and work sessions focused on crafting a Fiscal Year 2024 budget that outlines the city's priorities.

City Manager Rob DiSpirito was scheduled to present the Mayor and Council with a FY 2024 budget proposal on Feb. 27 that focuses on Mayor and Council priorities and fiscal sustainability, while navigating the challenges of market volatility, high inflation, supply chain delays, and workforce recruitment and retention.

"Despite these challenges, Rockville has been committed to providing high-quality services and seeking transformation through the leadership of the Mayor and Council," DiSpirito wrote in a letter introducing the budget. "The FY 2024 proposed budget includes funding for the reinstatement of the community survey, an employee compensation and classification study, and funding for the addition of two councilmembers beginning after the 2023 election. The FY 2024 budget also provides funding for Rockville Economic Development Inc., including expanding the MOVE program to support attraction of net new businesses to Rockville."

Find video of the presentation with the Feb. 27 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 8.

The proposed FY24 operating budget of \$156.4 million is a 5.1% increase over the FY 2023 adopted budget.

The general fund budget, which supports the largest portion of the operating budget, is \$100.7 million, an 8% increase.

The city's current real property tax rate of \$0.292 per \$100 of assessed valuation would remain the same for FY24. All residential and commercial property owners pay this tax. Rockville has not increased its property tax rate since 1995.

The proposed budget prioritizes the city's continued commitment to capital investments, including several large capital projects. (See the box below for details.) The proposed FY 2024-FY 2028 Capital Improvements Program, the five-year plan for funding new construction and infrastructure maintenance, supports 44 projects during the fiscal year.

The proposal also funds Mayor and Council priorities, including:

- Additional funding for the city's justice, equity, diversity and inclusion work.
- More support for recruiting police officers.
- Expanded recreation camps and programming, including for teens.
- Increased funding to address inflationary impacts to caregiver partner organizations.
- Addressing pay compression for temporary recreation employees.
- Free access to Croydon Creek Nature Center programs for schools serving students from low-income families.
- Increased staffing for after-school programs at Twinbrook Elementary.
- Funding for November's city election.
- The Labyrinth Flame of Hope project at Mattie J. T. Stepanek Park.

- Continued support for community organization partners.

Other priorities include performance management and project-tracking software to assist with monitoring the progress of city plans and major projects. Plans prioritized in the proposed budget are:

- The *Comprehensive Plan*, adopted in August 2021 to guide city development, conservation and capital improvement projects. The budget proposal funds a new community enhancement codes inspector, short-term rental compliance monitoring and \$250,000 for a pilot program to offer down payment assistance for city police officers buying a home in the city.
- The *Climate Action Plan*, which was adopted in January 2022 and charts a course for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% by 2030. The proposal includes \$300,000 for a new Stormwater Incentive Program, building on existing rebate programs to encourage owners to make larger, more innovative flood resiliency improvements to their properties. The proposal also continues funding for: the food scrap composting drop-off program, \$3.1 million for capital projects supporting climate sustainability and resiliency, converting additional streetlights to light-emitting diodes, additional electric vehicle charging infrastructure, completion of the Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan, purchasing electric vehicles, and the city's first solar panel installation.
- The *Vision Zero Action Plan*, which was adopted

FY24 BUDGET AT A
GLANCE CALENDAR:

- **Monday, March 6:** Public hearing and work session.
- **Monday, March 20:** Work session.
- **Monday, April 17:** Public hearing and work session.
- **Friday, April 21:** Close of budget survey and budget public record.
- **Monday, May 1:** Work session.
- **Monday, May 8:** Adoption of the FY24 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program.
- **Saturday, July 1:** FY24 begins.

Note: Budget calendar dates are subject to change. 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.

in July 2020 and outlines a path to eliminating traffic- and pedestrian-related deaths and serious injuries by 2030. The proposal includes \$8.1 million for seven capital projects that support Vision Zero, sidewalk installations, pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements, intersection audits and improvements, continued work related to the Bikeway Master Plan, LED streetlights, and completion of the Town Center Road Diets project. Adoption of the Pedestrian Master Plan, a Vision Zero action item, is also expected during FY24. +

City Manager's Proposed FY 2024-FY 2028 Capital Improvements Program

- Comprehensive design for RedGate Park Master Plan implementation, including for the initial phase, which will include a dog park, community gardens, improved walking trails and a park-wide arboretum.
- Outdoor recreation pool improvements at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center.
- Americans with Disabilities Act-related improvements to the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.
- Design for the King Farm Farmstead Dance and Fitness Studio.
- Hurley Avenue Bridge replacement.
- Stonestreet Avenue Corridor improvements.
- Lincoln Park Community Center improvements to expand academic enrichment and recreational programming for the community.
- Design of a new entrance for vehicles, bikes and pedestrians to access the Rockville Senior Center from West Gude Drive, while reducing the volume of vehicle traffic through existing residential neighborhoods.
- Right of way acquisition for extending Maryland and Dawson avenues in Rockville Town Center.
- Continued design and planning for the Twinbrook Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge.
- Completion of the Town Center Road Diets Project.
- A master plan to assess systems and equipment at the water treatment plant, and perimeter security improvements at the plant.

For more information on each project, see page 280 of the proposed FY24 budget at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.



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

Meetings Schedule: Mondays, March 6, 20 and 27 at 7 p.m. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details.

The March 20 meeting 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/CityClerk-11/Sign-up-for-Dropin-Meetings-227.

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.

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.

Mayor and Council meetings are 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.

Fourth Graders Have a Chance to Meet the Mayor and Be Mayor for a Day

March 31 is Deadline for the 'If I Were Mayor ...' Essay Contest

Rockville fourth graders have until Friday, March 31 to enter the Maryland Municipal League's statewide "If I Were Mayor" essay contest.

This year's contest theme is "Preserving the Past to Power the Future." Students are asked to write an essay of no more than 275 words after thinking about their hometown and its traditions, beliefs or events. Which traditions, beliefs or events would they uplift and honor? Which would they try to change? And how would they get people to participate in things they're trying to change?

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.

In addition to winners chosen by MML, Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton will select a student attending school in Rockville to serve as the city's Mayor for a Day in May.

For more information, including contest rules and forms for submitting entries online, visit mdmunicipal.org/168/Mayors-Essay-Contest.

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



ROCKVILLE REVELS IN THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT ... The City of Rockville and the city's Asian Pacific American Task Force hosted the annual Lunar New Year celebration Jan. 28 at Thomas S. Wootton High School.

The celebration marked 4721, the Year of the Rabbit on the Chinese zodiac calendar, with interactive displays and multicultural performances from a variety of performance groups, including XiaoRong Dance Arts (pictured). To find Rockville 11's recap of the celebration, visit youtube.com/cityofrockville and search "Lunar New Year."

City Begins Development of 10-Year Plan to Update Historic Preservation Initiatives

Rockville is developing a Historic Preservation Work Plan, a 10-year program that lays out a series of recommendations to assess and update the city's historic preservation program.

The plan, which will be open to public input during its development, will be the first step in updating how the city approaches preserving its history.

Recommendations included in the plan were developed based on prior studies, plans and public discussions dating back to 1981, and address various historic preservation program needs, such as survey and inventory of historic resources, historic districts, incentives, easements, education and outreach, prehistory, and archaeology.

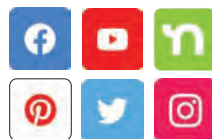
In addition to providing a needed assessment of programming and policy, the work plan will help develop components to be incorporated in an update to Rockville's Historic Preservation Plan, formerly known as the Historic Resources Management Plan.

The Mayor and Council are scheduled to discuss the work plan at their Monday, March 20 meeting.

For more information or to schedule an in-person meeting, contact Christopher Meyers, principal planner — historic preservation, at cmeyers@rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8200.

Read a draft of the Historic Preservation Work Plan or provide feedback at www.rockvillemd.gov/hpwp. ✚

Connect with us on Social Media.



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 the city's online calendar: www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.aspx.

- **March 8 and 22 Planning Commission 7 p.m.** (To participate, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details closer to the date.)

Vacancies

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

- Board of Supervisors of Elections (I)
- Education Commission (II)
- Financial Advisory Board (I)
- Human Services Advisory Board (I)
- Planning Commission (2)
- Retirement Commission (I)
- Senior Citizens Commission (3)
- Youth Commission (II)

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

► 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.

Leaders of Tomorrow Wanted to Help Guide Our City Today!

Join Rockville's Youth Commission www.rockvillemd.gov/youthcommission

Help Shape Rockville's Future • Serve Your Community

Youth Commission members:

- **Identify, monitor and evaluate** youth services, programs and activities offered in Rockville and surrounding areas.
- **Develop recommendations** for the Mayor and Council about programs, policies and legislation to promote the health and well-being of young adults.
- **Must live or attend** high school or Montgomery College in the city.
- **Must be 16 to 21 years old.**

Apply at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions.

Learn how Rockville residents are sharing their time and talents: youtube.com/cityofrockville, search "Join a board."

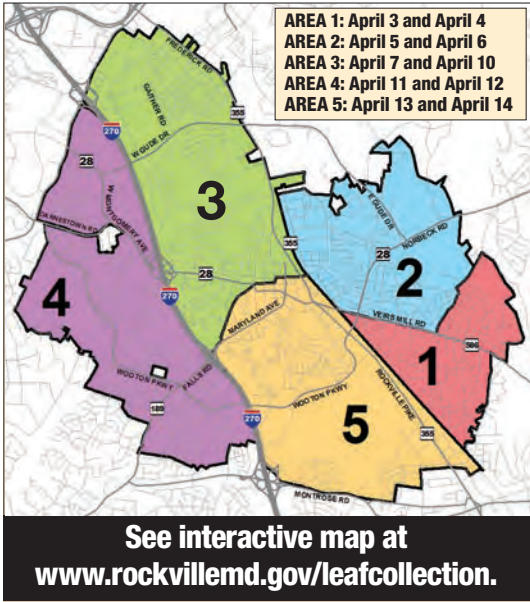


City Hall: **240-314-5000**

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.



Rake Away: Spring Leaf Collection in April

The city will vacuum leaves from neighborhood curbs from April 3-14 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.

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 25, and do something positive for the planet. 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.

Climate Solutions Speaker Series Presents 'Native Plants and Trees for Your Yard'

Learn about native plants and trees to beautify your yard and help the environment with "Native Plants and Trees for Your Yard," an online presentation from 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, April 18. Beth Ginter, executive director of the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council, will discuss native plant and tree species for different yard types, where to get native plants, and planting tips and design ideas.

Register at bit.ly/NativePlants2023.

To stay up to date on future sessions as they are announced, subscribe to the city's "Environment and Sustainability News" email newsletter at www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters and check future issues of "Rockville Reports."

To view previous Climate Solutions Speaker Series sessions, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/climate and select "What Can I Do On Climate Change?"

Earth Month for Early Birds (and Bees and Flowers and Trees)

Earth Day is Saturday, April 22, but Rockville celebrates Earth Month throughout the spring, including these events budding in March and fully blooming in April:

- **Saturday, March 25: Earth Hour.** 8:30-9:30 p.m. See the article on this page.
- **Tuesday, March 28-Wednesday, March 29: Montgomery County Energy Summit.** Silver Spring. Learn more at www.mcenergysummit.org.
- **Saturday, April 15: Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanups.** Stream cleanup sites include:
 - *Croydon Creek Nature Center*, 852 Avery Road, 9:30 a.m.-noon.
 - *Twinbrook Community Recreation Center*, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway, 9:30-11 a.m.
 - *Maryvale Park*, 812 First St., 10 a.m.-noon.StudentServiceLearning hours available. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Register at www.rockvillemd.gov/Adopt-a-Stream.
- **Tuesday, April 18: Climate Solutions Speaker Series: "Native Plants and Trees for Your Yard."** 7-8 p.m. Online. See the article on this page.
- **Saturday, April 22: Earth Day at Croydon Creek Nature Center.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Drop-in activities, while supplies last, including make-and-take crafts, an outdoor scavenger hunt, rain barrel raffle, story time at 9:30 a.m. and a coloring contest. Coloring sheets will be available starting April 1. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek for more information.
- **Saturday, April 22: Earth Day Stream Cleanup,** 10 a.m.-noon at the Winding Rose Tributary behind Julius West Middle School. SSL hours are available. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required at www.rockvillemd.gov/Adopt-a-Stream.
- **Sunday, April 23: Science Day,** noon-5 p.m. at Montgomery College, Rockville Campus, 51 Mannakee St. See the article on this page.
- **Saturday, April 29: City Nature Challenge,** 9-10 a.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center. An annual worldwide event encouraging people in cities to observe nature in their community. Download the iNaturalist app before attending the event. Then, learn how to use the app from naturalists leading an excursion in the forest preserve to observe wildlife. Register for course #27354 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.
- **Green Permit Fee Waivers for Earth Month.** To commemorate Earth Month, Rockville will waive permit fees for certain environmentally friendly home improvements. See the article on page 8.

continued on pg. 7...

Plug In to Electric Vehicles in Rockville

Rockville is answering the call of the city's Climate Action Plan to reduce transportation emissions by electrifying its fleet.

The city recently expanded its number of electric fleet vehicles from one to 14 and is expecting an additional four vehicles, with each replacing a similar-sized light-duty gasoline vehicle.

In going electric, Rockville is protecting the air and saving taxpayer dollars. Electric vehicles produce 80% lower emissions (in direct and indirect emissions) and cost half



as much to maintain as conventional gasoline vehicles.

You, too, can consider going electric. Visit maryland.ev.org for information about vehicle models and incentives available for purchasing electric vehicles and chargers.

Learn more about how the city is supporting a regional charging network at www.engagerockville.com/evplan. ❖

Meet a Rockville Employee: Jane Lyons-Raeder

Jane Lyons-Raeder joined Rockville's Department of Community Planning and Development Services in September. We asked her a few questions to introduce her to the community.



Jane Lyons-Raeder

As a principal planner within Comprehensive Planning, I'm working to implement the Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan, the city's long-range plan for growth and development. Right now, I'm working on projects to create a new master plan for Rockville Town Center, establish design guidelines for the Lincoln Park neighborhood and establish an accessory dwelling unit ordinance.

What did you do before joining the city?

I was the Maryland Advocacy Manager for the Coalition for Smarter Growth. There, I led advocacy campaigns around affordable housing, public transit and land use issues. To do that work, I collaborated with many partners, including neighborhood groups and community nonprofits.

What does your position entail?

What else can you tell us about yourself?

I'm a proud alumna of the University of Maryland, College Park, and went there for both my undergraduate and master's degrees. Go Terps! ❖

Explore Hands-On Science Exhibits at Rockville Science Day

Explore chemistry, rockets, robots, reptiles and more on Sunday, April 23 at the 32nd annual Rockville Science Day.

This Rockville tradition returns to Montgomery College, Rockville Campus, 51 Mannakee St., from noon-5 p.m. The free event offers an opportunity to experience hands-on science- and technology-related exhibits, activities, games, and demonstrations from over 70 local organizations and businesses. Admission is free.

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, quadcopters, archaeology mini-digs, 3-D printing, brain games, and more.

Student Service Learning hours are available for students 16 and older who help with setup Saturday and with exhibits Sunday. To register an exhibit, offer to volunteer or learn more, visit www.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 family chess club. Open discussion periods are held Thursday evenings and STEM Activities Day is the last Saturday of each month. Activities are held in the center's storefront at 36C Maryland Ave. and in the Makerspace at the Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave. RSC also offers spring break and summer classes at its Rockville Town Square locations and local schools.

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 how to support RSC at www.rockvillesciencecenter.org/supporter. ❖



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.

Bike Safely! Tips for Sharing Rockville's Roads

Rockville is a great place to get around by all modes of transportation. People may drive to a park, bike to work, or walk or roll to a store.

Traffic safety is a shared responsibility. Just like drivers, people walking, rolling, and bicycling need to do their part to keep themselves and everyone else on the road safe. Here are a few tips to keep in mind when bicycling:

- While bicyclists are allowed to use sidewalks, people bicycling must yield to people walking/rolling. Slow down when approaching pedestrians.
- When on a shared-use path or trail and passing someone walking or rolling, be sure to first ring your bell when a fair distance away, then, as you get closer call

out, "On your left!"

- Thank people who move out of your path.
- Make a complete stop at stop signs.
- When bicycling on the sidewalk, be extra mindful when crossing streets. Motorists may not see bicyclists on the sidewalk as they approach cross streets.
- Do not switch back and forth between sidewalks and on-street riding, as this can be unpredictable for everyone else on the road.

For more information about biking on sidewalks, search "Bicycling Sidewalks" at RockvilleReports.com.

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

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 2022.

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, 2022, 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 17 at history@rockvillemd.gov or Rockville Historic Preservation, City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. 🍀

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

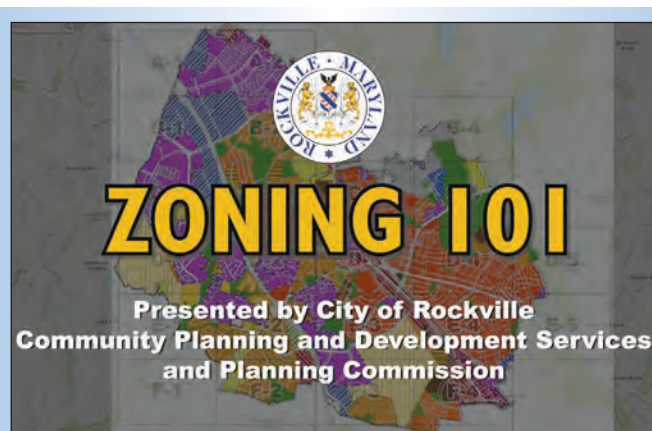
Depending on eligibility, REAP assistance may also be available for funeral and medical expenses. Referrals for emergency food, clothing, financial/employment counseling and other assistance are also provided.

All applicants for financial assistance must have a court-issued notice of eviction 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. 🍀



ZONING ABCs ... The Rockville Planning Commission and Chief of Zoning Jim Wasilak present "Zoning 101," an introduction for the community about Rockville's zoning ordinance rewrite, on the city's YouTube channel. This will be a major city project over the next couple of years.

Watch and learn more about the zoning ordinance, with an overview of planning and development processes, at youtu.be/pxzV4RnuF68.

For more information about the zoning rewrite, contact Wasilak at jwasilak@rockvillemd.gov.



ASK YOUR LOCAL BANK IF THEY TAKE PART IN THE NATIONAL BANK ON MOVEMENT... These banks provide individuals with safe and affordable checking accounts. Go to www.rockvillemd.gov/bankon to learn more.

Connect with us on Social Media.



County to Provide Free, Virtual Tax Preparation Appointments Through VITA

Montgomery County is hosting free, in-person and virtual federal and state tax preparation sessions throughout tax season for low- to moderate-income families that earned \$60,000 or less in 2023.

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.

In-person appointments are available at sites throughout Montgomery County and in Rockville from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Community Action Agency, 1401 Rockville Pike, Suite 320.

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

Appointments are available until April 14.

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



Spring Forward and Check Your Smoke Alarms

Daylight saving time begins 2 a.m. Sunday, March 12, 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/firesafety or email Carl Young, city fire marshal, at cyoung@rockvillemd.gov.



There is hope.



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





Register Now for Spring Sports

March 9 Deadline Approaches

The deadline to register for spring sports is Thursday, March 9.

Leagues available during the spring are: men's softball; co-rec softball; co-rec indoor volleyball; co-rec outdoor sand volleyball; co-rec kickball; and co-rec soccer.

Game nights vary. Registration deadlines for adult league players and teams are in late March. Youth sports for spring are youth coach-pitch baseball, T-ball, soccer, and track and field.

Practices for youth track and field begin at the end of March, with meets beginning in mid-April. Practices for youth soccer, T-ball and coach-pitch baseball begin in early April, with games beginning mid-April.

Coaches are needed for teams in spring youth sports leagues. If you're interested in taking part, contact sports@rockvillemd.gov.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/sports for league details and registration information, or call 240-314-8620.

Glenview-Peerless Speaker Series to Present 'Women Who Dared'

The Glenview Mansion and Peerless Rockville Speaker Series marks Women's History Month in March with "Women Who Dared: Pioneering Rockville Mother and Daughter," at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 9 at Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park.

Hear 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.

The program is free but registration is required. Register at peerlessrockville.org/2023/02/15/women-who-dared-pioneering-rockville-mother-and-daughter or by using course #23559 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

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

Spring Guides are Here!

Rockville offers a variety of classes and programs each season. Sign up at www.rockvillemd.gov/register.

Enter the course number listed on the calendar entry to see more details and to register.

Hurry, classes fill up quickly!



Annual International Night Cultural Celebration Returns This Month

International Night will return Friday, March 17, following a two-year pandemic hiatus, for a free evening of multicultural fun and entertainment at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

From 6 p.m., International Night will showcase dance performances and traditional clothing displays, with an opportunity for attendees to sample unique and traditional foods from around the world, engage with and learn the customs of people from different countries, and discover our community's different cultures.



Watch video of the celebration the day after the event on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, and on the city's YouTube channel at youtube.com/cityofrockville.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/internationalnight. The theater is located in Rockville Civic Center Park at 603 Edmonston Drive. ✚

Stay Fit and Well in March with the Senior Center's Help

Stay healthy and informed with free 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 in person and held 1-2 p.m., except where noted.

Stroke — Symptoms and Rehab

Learn the signs and symptoms of a stroke, when to call 911 and the rehabilitation process. Presented by Dr. Carlos Martinez, director of CAM Physical Therapy.

Register with course #24965. Wednesday, March 1. Hybrid.

Oral Meds Versus Topicals or Injectables for Musculoskeletal and Neuromuscular Conditions

Examples of commonly used medications and/or delivery protocols in the treatment of musculoskeletal and neuromuscular conditions. Presented by Dr. Mehrdad Michael Massumi of Massumi Associates, Pain Management and Rehabilitation.

Register with course #24952. Wednesday, March 15. Virtual.



Better Breathers Club

Educational presentations on what affects the lungs and breathing, and related respiratory issues. Meets the third Thursday of each month at the senior center.

Register with course #24075. Thursday, March 16.

Your Good Health: Self-Help with Jin Shin Jyutsu

Simple, hands-on ways to help yourself with healing and optimum health. New and previous students are welcome. Presented by Betty Figliure, jin shin jyutsu practitioner and Rockville Senior Center wellness coordinator.

Register with course #24953. Thursday, March 23, 1-2:30 p.m. Hybrid.

A Heart to Heart

Healthy lifestyle choices are essential to preventing and reducing risk of heart disease and other heart-related conditions. Leni Barry will detail practical strategies for heart-healthy living.

Register with course #27511. Thursday, March 23, 2-3 p.m. Virtual. ✚

This Month, at the F. Scott and Glenview Mansion

Victorian Lyric Opera Company presents "The New Moon"

8 p.m. Friday, March 3 and Saturday, March 4; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 5.

Revolution, romance, mutiny and betrayal are woven throughout this classic 1928 operetta, set in 18th-century New Orleans.

Robert, a French aristocrat and revolutionary flees France and settles in New Orleans by selling himself into servitude to a wealthy landowner. He falls in love with the owner's beautiful daughter, Marianne, but due to his circumstances cannot tell her who he really is. Hunted by a French detective, Robert is eventually captured and put aboard a ship, The New Moon, to be returned to France. Things take a turn when a mutiny occurs onboard and the ship's entire party, including Robert and Marianne, are made to start life anew on a remote island.

Tickets are \$28; \$26 for seniors; \$24 for students.

Season tickets and group prices are available; call the box office at 240-314-8690 for more information.

Rockville Concert Band presents "Zarzuela and Pasodobles"

3 p.m. Sunday, March 12.

Music director Juan Gallastegui conducts a musical celebration of Spanish drama and dance.

No tickets are required,

but a \$5 donation is suggested. For more information, visit rockvilleconcertband.org.

Glenview Mansion Art Gallery Exhibits the Washington Water Color Association

Visit washingtonwatercolor.com for more information about the association.

The exhibit will be on display until Friday, March 24.

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

Rockville Civic Ballet presents "Lancelot"

2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 25; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 26.

One kingdom's tale of knights, adventure and love, directed by Eleanor Simpson and Erin Kwong.

Tickets cost \$17; \$13 for children 12 and younger; \$13 for seniors 60 and older. Group rates: \$16.50 for seven or more adult tickets; \$12.50 for 10 or more children/senior tickets.

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@rockvillemd.gov. ✚

Women's History in Our City

Rockville celebrates Women's History Month in March.

Rockville 11's YouTube channel offers a look at how the city has celebrated Women's History Month throughout the years, including profiles of women in leadership in City of Rockville government and tributes by the women of Rockville's Mayor and Council to the women who have made positive impacts in their lives. Visit bit.ly/RkvWHMPlaylist.

Then, visit Glenview Mansion for a look back at two Rockville women whose inspirational lives defied social restrictions



placed on women in the late 19th and early 20th century. The Glenview Mansion and Peerless Rockville Speaker Series presents "Women Who Dared: Pioneering Rockville Mother and Daughter" at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 9 at Glenview Mansion and Rockville Civic Center Park. Learn more in the article at left on this page. ✚



MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ... Now on Rockville 11's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/cityofrockville): Recapping the Rockville Sister City Corporation's Lantern Festival; watch officers of the Rockville City Police Department dip into the icy waters of the Chesapeake Bay for the Polar Bear Plunge (and read about it on page 8); and see the Mayor and Council adopt a resolution to add two seats to Rockville's council (and read about it on page 1).

March 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
- F** Facebook Live Event



1 STROKE – SYMPTOMS AND REHAB Stroke is the leading cause of serious adult disability in the U.S. Dr. Carlos Martinez, director of CAM Physical Therapy, will explain the signs and symptoms of stroke, when to call 911, as well as rehabilitation. Register with course #24965. Hybrid. Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

3,4,5 VICTORIAN LYRIC OPERA COMPANY PRESENTS "THE NEW MOON" See article on page 6. **FSF**

2,25 LITTLE EXPLORERS Take time with your little one to go exploring with a naturalist. Hiking, games and hands-on learning are all part of the fun! Registration required with course numbers 25336 and 25337. Ages 2-5. \$8 R/\$10 NR. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

5 FAMILIES OUTSIDE: EARLY SIGNS OF SPRING Explore the habitats in the forest preserve, hunting for early signs of spring! Children must be accompanied by an adult and all participants must register with course #25341. Ages 3 and older. \$5 R/\$6 NR. 1-2 p.m. **CC**

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

7 FUNERAL PLANNING IN ADVANCE How your friends and family say goodbye is determined by the type of event you choose. You can plan for a formal affair with a long list of speakers, a more casual event with only your closest friends and family present, or anything in between. Hybrid. Register with course #25008. Free. 10-11:30 a.m. **SR**

7 DEALING WITH DEMENTIA Without guidance on how to deal with the challenging situations of those dealing with dementia, community members can often feel awkward when communicating with someone living with dementia, and may experience unnecessary discomfort when running errands, dining out, and attending community events. Hybrid event. Register with course #25014. Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

9 WHAT MAKES A GOOD LIFE: LESSONS FROM A STUDY ON HAPPINESS What is a good life, and how do you measure it? Are the factors the same for everyone, or does each person have their own? Are there common factors? Look at research and engage in a lively discussion. Register with course #24787. \$6 M/\$9 NM. 11 a.m.-noon. **SR**

10 EARLY SPRING WILDFLOWERS Find out more about the strategies for emerging the earliest and why early spring ephemerals are so important for early pollinators. Register with course #24958. Free M/\$4 NM. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

11 HEART OF MARYLAND PRESENTS "FINALLY OFF MUTE: A PLATINUM JUBILEE" Tickets: \$15; \$7 for children 17 and younger. 1-3 p.m. **FSF**

12 ROCKVILLE CONCERT BAND PRESENTS "ZARZUELA AND PASODOBLES" See article on page 6. 3-4 p.m. **FSF**

15 V ORAL MEDS VS. TOPICALS OR INJECTABLES FOR MUSCULOSKELETAL AND NEUROMUSCULAR CONDITIONS See article on page 6. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

17 INTERNATIONAL NIGHT See article on page 6. 6-9 p.m. **FSF**

18 FLASHLIGHT HIKE Learn about nocturnal animals and their behaviors as you explore the Hayes Forest Preserve after the sun sets. Bring a flashlight and dress for the weather. All participants must register. Ages 5 and older. \$6 R/\$7 NR. 7:30-8:30 p.m. **CC**

19 ANNUAL GLENVIEW MANSION WEDDING AND EVENTS EXPO Free. 1-4 p.m. **GM**

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

23 YOUR GOOD HEALTH: SELF-HELP WITH JIN SHIN JYUTSU See article on page 6. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

25 EARTH HOUR 8:30-9:30 p.m.

25,26 ROCKVILLE CIVIC BALLET PRESENTS "LANCELOT" 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. See article on page 6. **FSF**

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

30 V PUT A SPRING IN YOUR STEP Walk more than 2 miles in the comfort of your own home. Seated instruction available. Register with course #24811. Free. 10-11 a.m. **SR**

31 MURDER AT THE MANSION PRESENTS "MURDER BY THE BOOK" An interactive murder mystery comedy. Visit fscottfitzgerald.showare.com for more information. **GM**



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

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

Preview of Earth Month Events

continued from pg. 4...

- **Solar and EV Charger Co-op Coming Soon.** If you are interested in rooftop solar, or are looking to install an electric vehicle charger, then this is the opportunity for you! For updates about upcoming information sessions, see below for how to sign up for the "Environment and Sustainability News" email newsletter, or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/solar.

Find more environmental events from March through May at www.rockvillemd.gov/earthmonth.

Subscribe to the city's "Environment and Sustainability News" for seasonal updates on environmental events, volunteer opportunities and climate action news throughout the year. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters and select "Environment and Sustainability." ❀

Attention Dog Owners

**Your dog did his duty,
please do yours.**

Clean up after your dog.

**LEARN MORE
ON ROCKVILLE 11**

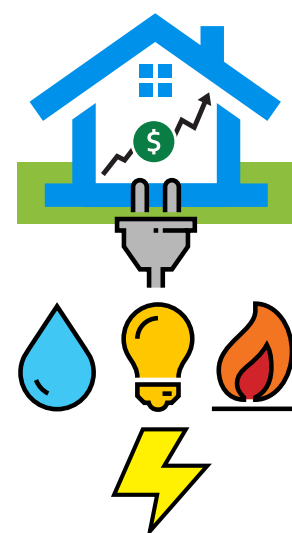
[www.youtube.com/
cityofrockville](http://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville)

ARE YOUR UTILITY BILLS TOO HIGH?

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

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

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



www.rockvillemd.gov/communityservices



Memorial Day Parade Participants Wanted

Save the Date for Hometown Holidays

The city's 79th annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade will take place from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, May 29, in Rockville Town Center.

Applications to participate in the parade are available at www.rockvillemd.gov/2402/Memorial-Day-Ceremony-and-Parade and must be submitted by Friday, March 31.

The parade and ceremony will cap off a weekend that includes the Hometown Holidays Music Fest at RedGate Park. The annual free festival will feature two stages of entertainment, the Taste of Rockville and activities for kids, from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, May 27 and Sunday, May 28.

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

Veterans and Military Members Wanted for City Ceremonies

Rockville's annual Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies each include a member of the military as a featured speaker.

Rockville and Montgomery County residents who have retired from, or currently serve in, the United States military are eligible to take part in the ceremonies. The Memorial Day ceremony will be held Monday, May 29. The Veterans Day ceremony will be held Saturday, Nov. 11.

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 Cristina Willis at 240-314-8610 or cwillis@rockvillemd.gov to participate or learn more.

For video of past ceremonies, search "Memorial Day Ceremony" or "Veterans Day Ceremony" at youtube.com/cityofrockville.

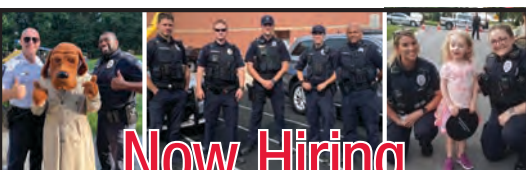
Synthetic pesticides cannot be used on lawns in Montgomery County – IT'S THE LAW.

Por ley, en el Condado de Montgomery está prohibido usar pesticidas sintéticos en el césped.

MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/Lawns



No productos de "weed & feed" en el césped.



Now Hiring

ROCKVILLE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Great Benefits. A Great Reputation.

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



ACCEPTING APPLICANTS:
JOINRCPD.COM



Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

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

Go Green and Save Green with Permit Fee Waivers This April

Rockville to Waive Fees for Select Home Improvement Permits During Earth Month

The City of Rockville will mark Earth Month in April by waiving permit fees for certain environmentally friendly home improvements.

The city will waive all fees assessed by Rockville's Inspection Services Division that are directly associated with the residential installation of solar photovoltaic systems, electric vehicle charging stations and energy-efficient heating and cooling upgrades, such as heat pumps.

Applications must be sub-

mitted by Sunday, April 30 at www.mygovernmentonline.org and must be accepted by city staff by 5 p.m. Monday, May 1.

For more details, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/165/Permits-Inspections or email questions to permits@rockvillemd.gov.

This program is in support of the city's Climate Action Plan, which was approved by the Mayor and Council in 2022. For more about the plan, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/climate. ❖

Register Now for the Suds and Soles 5K Run in June

Registration is now open for the Suds and Soles 5K.

The Montgomery County Road Runners Club and the City of Rockville are teaming up again to present this 5K race at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 17. The course winds through neighborhood roads and begins and ends in Rockville Town Center.

The post-race party will feature live music and refreshments, including beverages from local breweries. A KidZone will feature activities for children age 10 and younger.

The race is open to

adults, youth and children, and features a tiered pricing structure offering limited slots at reduced prices. Register early and save. Race-day registration will take place only if slots remain.

For more information and to register, visit www.mccrscudsandsoles.org.

Proceeds benefit the Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation, Inc. and MCRRC's youth and beginning running programs. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/sudsandsoles. ❖



TAKIN' A CHILLY DIP FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS ... The Rockville City Police Department took the plunge at the Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge on Feb. 3 at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis. The plunge raised \$3.5 million in support of Special Olympics Maryland, with RCPD's plunge team raising more than \$1,100 for the cause. For more information, visit plungemd.com or the RCPD plunge team page at support.somd.org/team/464747.

Go Inside City Government With the Rockville City Academy

The Rockville City Academy returns in May, offering members of the community an opportunity to better understand how the City of Rockville operates, with a closer look at city departments and services.

The academy will be comprised of four sessions that will connect participants with some of the city staff who help keep Rockville running. The in-person sessions will be held 7:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, May 4-13.

Topics will include:

- Understanding the city and how to voice your opinion.

- Housing and community services.
- Community-friendly policing.
- Resources for families in the community.
- A tour of the Department of Public Works.

Registration will be open from Monday, March 13-Friday, April 24 at www.rockvillemd.gov/academy. Spaces are limited. Participants must be 16 or older. Student Service Learning hours are available.

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

Veirs Mill Road Camera-Related Speed Citations Begin March 1

Citations will be issued beginning March 1 for vehicles exceeding the speed limit on a segment of Veirs Mill Road where the city recently installed speed monitoring cameras.

In a continuing effort to reduce the number of speeding vehicles in Rockville neighborhoods, the Rockville City

Police Department deployed speed monitoring systems in February in the 900 block of Veirs Mill Road. The system uses portable cameras to monitor both eastbound and westbound traffic near the intersection with Gail Avenue.

Though the monitoring systems were fully functional, the city did not issue citations



related to the cameras in February. Beginning March

1, citations will be issued for vehicles exceeding the posted speed limit of 35 mph by 12 mph or more.

For more information, contact Socrates Yiallourous, RCPD's photo/parking enforcement supervisor, at 240-314-8373 or syiallourous@rockvillemd.gov. ❖



Get Into It

City Manager: Rob DiSpirito
Director of Communication: Katherine Kirk-Dantzler
Assist. Director of Communication: Sean Sedam
Public Information Specialist: Cliff Cumber

Web and Digital Manager: Nick Kanary
Graphics and Printing: Sylvia England, Eric Ferrell, Lori Russler
Rockville 11: Hagop Balekjian, Craig Buchanan, Adrian Zlotescu
Social Media and Digital Engagement: Becca Brown

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BACK IN THE DAY ... The city's Energy Task Force Commission was "researching methods to conserve energy," reported the March 23, 1977 issue of the "City of Rockville Newsletter," as "Rockville Reports" was then known. Energy use remains a major focus for the city today. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/climate to learn how energy conservation and efficiency and renewable energy are part of the city's Climate Action Plan goals of carbon reduction, equity and resiliency.