



Rockville Reports

MARCH 2024 • VOL. 69 #3



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Rockville Seeks Community Input in Search for Next City Manager

The City of Rockville is moving forward with the search for its next city manager.

The Mayor and Council are interested in hearing community members' opinions and feedback about the traits needed for someone to be successful in this role.

A survey is available, through Sunday, March 31, for community members to provide feedback about the traits, qualities and characteristics they'd like to see in a city manager and the priorities that the city manager should focus on. Take the survey at bit.ly/RkvCityManagerSurvey.

The position will be open until filled, with a first review of

applications beginning Tuesday, March 19.

The City of Rockville operates under a council-manager form of government. The city manager is responsible to the Mayor and Council for the day-to-day management of city operations. Under provisions of the City Charter and code, the city manager prepares a budget for the Mayor and Council's approval; recruits, hires, and supervises staff; implements Mayor and Council policies; and provides professional recommendations.

For more information, including an application, visit bit.ly/RkvCityManagerApply. 🌸

Rockville Celebrates Women's History Month Meet Two Women Making Their Mark While Serving Our City

March is Women's History Month in Rockville, with a Mayor and Council proclamation recognizing the contributions of women to our world, including those working to break barriers and defy stereotypes. In celebration of Women's History Month, "Rockville Reports" presents two staff members who, while working for the City of Rockville, have taken career paths not often pursued by women.

Mandi Murray is a senior construction inspector in Rockville's Department of Public Works.



Mandi Murray

She joined the city in December 2016, but had worked with DPW's Construction Management Division as a consulting inspector since August 2014. "When a position became available, I applied because the projects I was working on were the perfect blend of my work experience and my college degree in environmental studies," she said.

What did you do before joining the city?

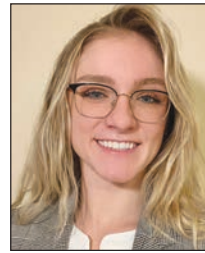
Starting in September 2005, I worked for an engineering firm as a geotechnical field technician and eventually held a dual role as a senior project inspector and environmental scientist. Several of my projects involved the construction of stormwater facilities. I was also exposed to a variety of specialized deep-foundation projects that required me to work closely with both the contractor and the project owner. (Deep foundations are constructed at a greater depth than most building foundations and are used in superstructures such as skyscrapers, apartment buildings and shopping centers.) This experience, plus my environmental background, led to my assignment with Rockville as a consultant.

What does your position entail?

I oversee the construction

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Jessica Corazza joined the city in March 2023 as the parks maintenance specialist in



Jessica Corazza

the Department of Recreation and Parks. She's also serving as Rockville's acting horticulturalist for parks and facilities until the position is filled.

We asked her a few questions to get to know her better and learn more about her role

What did you do before joining the city?

I worked for a grocery store chain where I managed an indoor grow room on an organic farm in upstate New York. Additionally, I was a leader in the produce and floral departments.

In 2022, I graduated with a bachelor's in horticultural science from Colorado State University.

What does your position entail and is there anything specific you'd like to tell us about it?

I currently oversee the maintenance of 26 city parks and green spaces, including locations like Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park, Falls Grove Park and Rockville Civic Center Park.

I manage contracts for the planting of around 15,000 annuals and 500 street trees every year. I inspect and conduct minor repairs as needed to playgrounds. I work with the horticulture crew (Victor

continued on pg. 7...

Spring Forward and Check Your Smoke Alarms

Clocks move forward an hour, this month, providing an extra hour of daylight in the evening.

Daylight saving time begins 2 a.m. Sunday, March 10 — the ideal reminder for homeowners to do an annual check on smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

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 replacing older smoke alarms 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

TAKE THE CITY OF ROCKVILLE FY 2025 Budget Priorities Survey

AVAILABLE IN FIVE LANGUAGES



Your Voice Counts

Visit
www.rockvillemd.gov/budget



PRIORITIES AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ... Public participation in the budget process is a high priority for the Mayor and Council and city staff. The community budget priorities survey at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget is available in simplified Chinese, French, Korean and Spanish, as well as English. Survey responses provide valuable input to the Mayor and Council for their budget discussions.

Community members will also have an opportunity to express their budget priorities during public hearings this spring. Learn more about the proposed Fiscal Year 2025 budget and the FY 2025-FY 2029 Capital Improvements Program, including how and when to testify at upcoming public hearings, on page 2.

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MAYOR & COUNCIL
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Rockville, Maryland
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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. The budget includes a new rate schedule for FY25-FY27 water and sewer rates.

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

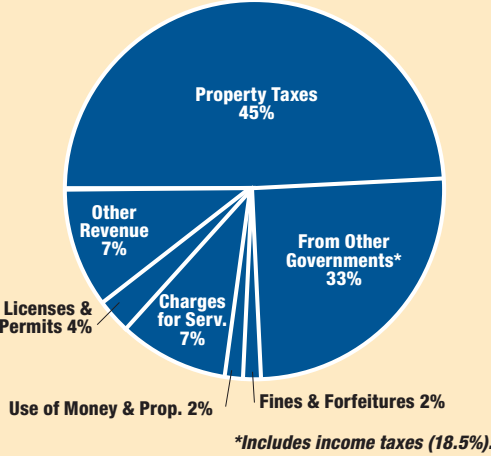
The budget includes a proposed \$32 annual increase in the refuse and recycling rate, to \$535 per household. The stormwater management rate would increase by \$6, to \$152 for the year.

Budget Survey Take it Today!

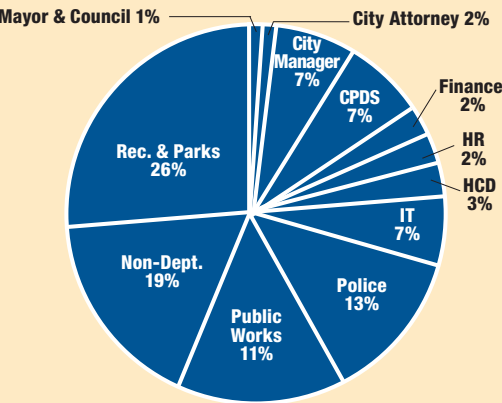


Understanding the General Fund

Proposed FY25 General Fund Revenues



Proposed FY25 General Fund Expenditures



Budget Watch: Fiscal Year 2025

Rockville's Mayor and Council begin budget deliberations this month with a public hearing and work session focused on a Fiscal Year 2025 budget that outlines the city's priorities.

The proposed budget will be available for review beginning Friday, March 1 at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.

Acting City Manager Craig L. Simoneau is scheduled to present the Mayor and Council with a FY 2025 budget proposal on Monday, March 4.

For information about how and when to testify at upcoming budget hearings or view the presentation on cable and online, see the FY25 budget calendar at right.

The budget, which covers the fiscal year that begins July 1, is scheduled for adoption by the Mayor and Council on Monday, May 6.

The proposed FY25 operating budget of \$168.9 million is a 7.4% increase over the FY 2024 adopted budget. The general fund budget, which supports the largest portion of the operating budget, is \$109.7 million, a 7.9% increase.

The city's current real property tax rate of \$0.292 per \$100 of assessed valua-

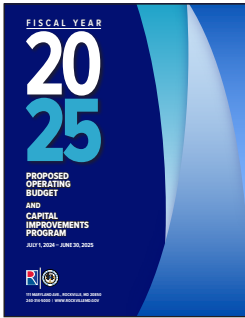
tion would remain the same for FY25. All residential and commercial property owners pay this tax. Rockville has not increased its property tax rate since 1995.

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 2025-FY 2029 CIP, the five-year plan for funding new construction and infrastructure maintenance, supports 47 projects during the fiscal year.

The proposal also funds Mayor and Council priorities, including:

- \$3.7 million in new funding for capital projects that address the city's Climate Action Plan.
- \$10.7 million in new funding for capital projects that address the city's Vision Zero Action Plan and Pedestrian Master Plan.
- One additional senior transportation engineer to address transportation-related initiatives, including pedestrian safety efforts.
- Enhanced funding for sidewalk projects to promote walkability and pedestrian safety.

- Six additional police officers, funded by Montgomery County, to address critical community safety needs in response to service reductions from county police.
- Continued support for the police mental health specialist contract.
- A \$1.4 million contribution to Rockville Economic Development, Inc., which provides funding to the Small Business Impact Fund, MOVE and Business Expansion Fund, and a life sciences branding project.
- One additional senior building plans examiner to improve economic development by enhancing the timeliness and dependability of the city's permitting program.
- Expanded child care, camps and teen programming.
- One new program access supervisor to provide consistency in the city's provision of program modifications for participants with disabilities.
- A new pilot Enforcement Assistance Program to assist eligible residents with bringing their property into compliance after receiving a citation for a code violation. +



FY25 BUDGET CALENDAR

- **Friday, March 1:** Proposed FY 2025 budget and Capital Improvements Program posted to www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.
- **Monday, March 4:** Introduction, and acting city manager's presentation, of the FY25 budget and CIP.
- **Monday, March 18:** Public hearing and work session.
- **Monday, April 8:** Public hearing and work session.
- **Friday, April 12:** Close of community survey and budget public record.
- **Monday, April 15:** Work session.
- **Monday, May 6:** Adoption of the FY 2025 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program.
- **Monday, July 1:** FY25 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.

City Manager's Proposed FY 2025-FY 2029 Capital Improvements Program

The FY 2025-FY 2029 Capital Improvements Program includes new appropriations of \$31.4 million to support 47 capital projects. For more information on each project, see the "CIP Projects" section of the proposed FY25 budget at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget. The CIP includes:

- A FY25 general fund contribution of \$9.3 million.
- \$10.7 million in Vision Zero initiatives and \$3.7 million in Climate Action Plan initiatives.
- Two new projects: Talbott Street Park and replacement of the emergency generator at the city's Gude maintenance complex.
- Bond issuances of approximately \$26.9 million to support:
 - Construction in FY25 of outdoor recreation pool renovations at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center.
 - Construction in FY25 of Lincoln Park Community Center improvements.
 - F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre Americans with Disabilities Act-related improvements.
 - City payments for the operation of and capital improvements to the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority's Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant, and improvements to Rockville's water infrastructure and water treatment plant.
- A new \$1 million grant and \$2 million low-interest loan in to support water main work within a disadvantaged community census tract.
- Funding for construction in FY25 of David Scull Park improvements.
- \$1.7 million in new grant funding to advance the RedGate Park and arboretum.
- New appropriations of \$1.4 million for light-emitting diode streetlight conversion.
- New appropriations of \$13.4 million for water and sewer infrastructure.
- New appropriations of \$1.9 million to support stormwater infrastructure.

For more information on the proposed FY25 budget at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.



Offer Your Ideas

- By filling out 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 18 and April 8.

Mayor & Council

mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov



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



Councilmember Kate Fulton
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Councilmember David Myles
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Councilmember Barry Jackson
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Councilmember Izola (Zola) Shaw
240-314-8297 • ishaw@rockvillemd.gov



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

Rockville Seeks Members for Community Policing Advisory Board

Community members are encouraged to apply to serve on the city's Community Policing Advisory Board.

The board provides recommendations to the Mayor and Council on how to support Rockville City Police Department programs, training and professional development, and crime and safety initiatives. It also meets with police to discuss issues as they arise, in the interest of making improvements and finding solutions.

The board meets a minimum of eight times a year. It provides input and support for department initiatives, including: National Night Out, the annual community police open house, the police ride-along program, fair and impartial police command and community trainings.

There are several vacancies on the board, which is comprised of nine members who live in Rockville. The city seeks diversity in members' ages, sex, gender, race, nationality, languages spo-

ken and neighborhoods of residence. At least one board seat is reserved for a youth member, age 16-21. Board members serve staggered terms, with four members serving three-year terms and four others serving two-year terms. The youth member serves a one-year term.

To apply, use the expression of interest form at www.rockvillemd.gov/join-a-board-or-commission.

The Mayor and Council created the board in 2021 and approved the board's mission "to enhance trust, respect, communication and collaboration between the community and the police department in order to increase knowledge, understanding, awareness and open dialogue, and to minimize systemic and individual biases."

Learn more about the board at www.rockvillemd.gov/cpab and more about the RCPD at www.rockvillemd.gov/police.

Meet the Mayor — Be the Mayor: City and Contest Offer Opportunities for Fourth Graders

March 8 is Deadline for 'If I Were Mayor ...' Essay Contest

Rockville fourth graders have until Friday, March 8 to enter the Maryland Municipal League's statewide "If I Were Mayor" essay contest.

This year's theme is "Inspiring Leadership in Your City/Town/Community." Students are asked to write an essay of no more than 275 words about what they would do to inspire leadership in their city, town or community, and to describe a project they would undertake to make others want to help make their city, town or community better.

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 late April.

In addition to winners chosen by MML, Mayor Monique Ashton 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/mayors-essay-contest.

Mayor Ashton 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.

► 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.

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www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters



ROCKVILLE POLICE MAKE A BIG (COLD) SPLASH FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS ... The Rockville City Police Department was freezin' for a good reason as a team of officers and civilian staff took a dip in a chilly Chesapeake Bay as part of the Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge, Feb. 2, at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis. The team more than doubled its fundraising goal of \$1,000, collecting \$2,730 in donations. The funds go to the 15,588 athletes of Special Olympics Maryland. RCPD's annual effort is coordinated by Cpl. Ronnie Crowe, the department's community services officer.



WOMEN IN A LEADING ROLE ... Rockville celebrates Women's History Month in March. Rockville's Mayor and Council is the most diverse elected body in the city's history, with the most women ever to serve at one time. Find Rockville II's Women's History Month playlist at youtube.com/cityofrockville and throughout March on Montgomery County Verizon and Comcast cable channel 11.

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 4 and 18 at 7 p.m. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/Agenda Center for details. The March 4 meeting will be preceded by a drop-in session with Mayor Monique Ashton and Councilmember Izola (Zola) Shaw, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Get Involved with the City

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

Boards and Commissions

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

See times and dates, and ways to participate on the city's online calendar: www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.

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

Vacancies

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

- Community Policing Advisory Board (2) (1 student rep.)
- Education Commission (1 youth rep.)
- Environment Commission (2)
- Ethics Commission (1)
- Financial Advisory Board (1)
- Human Rights Commission (2)
- Planning Commission (1)
- Rockville Housing Enterprises (1 tenant rep.)
- Senior Citizens Commission (2)

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



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

Police Non-Emergency: **240-314-8900**

24-Hour Utility Emergency Report Hotline: **240-314-8567**

STAY INFORMED: The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil. Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting.

Go Green and Save Green With Permit Fee Waivers for Earth Month

Rockville to Waive Fees for Select Home Improvement Permits During April

The City of Rockville is marking 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 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 submitted by Sunday, April 28 at www.mygovernmentonline.org and must be accepted by city staff by 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 1.

For more details, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/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.

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 nonessential lights in their homes and businesses for one hour, from 8:30-9:30 p.m. Saturday, March 23, and do something positive for the planet. The city will participate by turning off all nonessential lights at the city's Gude maintenance facility.

Learn more and find ways to participate in Earth Hour every day at www.earthhour.org.

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

Restoring or repairing the outside of a historic home? 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. 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, 2023, you may be eligible for reduction of your property taxes for the coming year, up to 25% of the 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 altered or removed.

The city is accepting applications for work completed in calendar year 2023. For more information, contact 240-314-8236 or history@rockvillemd.gov.

Applications must be sent to history@rockvillemd.gov by Monday, April 15.



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

Earth Month for Early Birds

Earth Day is Monday, April 22, but Rockville celebrates throughout spring with the following events:

Saturday, March 23: Earth Hour. 8:30-9:30 p.m. See the article on this page.

Saturday, April 6: Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanups.

Stream cleanup sites include:

- Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road, 9:30 a.m.-noon.
- Maryvale Park, 812 First St., 10 a.m.-noon.

City staff will greet volunteers. Gloves and bags will be provided. Student Service Learning hours are available. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes. Space is limited. Registration required at www.rockvillemd.gov/adopt-a-stream.

Saturday, April 13: Twinbrook Stream Cleanup. 9:30-11 a.m. at the Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway. Student Service Learning hours are available. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited. Registration required at www.rockvillemd.gov/adopt-a-stream.

Saturday, April 20: Croydon Creek Campfire. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road. Gather around the campfire with friends for stories, snacks and more. An adult must accompany children and all participants must register. Ages 5 and older. Register for course #31322 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

Sunday, April 21: Science Day. Noon-5 p.m. at Montgomery College, Rockville campus, 51 Mannakee St. See the article on this page.

Saturday, April 27: City Nature Challenge. 9-10 a.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road. An annual worldwide event that encourages people in cities to get outside and observe nature in their community. Download the iNaturalist app from your app store before attending the event. Naturalists will teach you how to use the app and lead an excursion in the forest preserve to make observations of wild-life big and small. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 6 and older. Register for course #31323 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

Find More Spring Activities at Croydon Creek Nature Center.

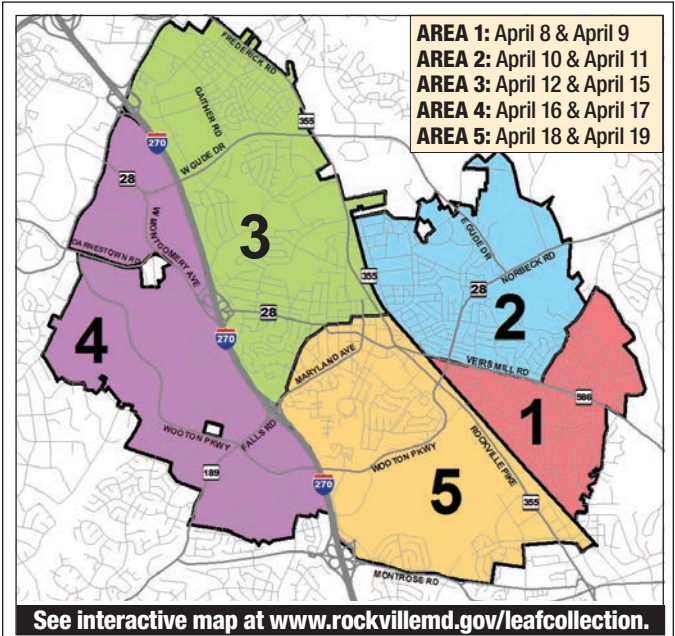
Looking for more to do outside? Croydon Creek Nature Center offers hikes, campfires, nature outings, youth camps and more throughout the year. Learn more and register at www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek.

Weed Warrior Workdays.

Join Rockville Weed Warrior Leaders for non-native, invasive plant removal workdays. SSL hours available. Space is limited. Find upcoming events and register at www.rockvilled.gov/weedwarriors.

Adopt-A-Stream.

Groups can adopt a Rockville stream and host cleanups to help keep litter out of local waterways. Apply at www.rockvillemd.gov/adopt-a-stream.



Spring Rake! Leaf Collection Set for April

The city will vacuum leaves from neighborhood curbs from April 8-19 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. 🌿

[gov/adopt-a-stream](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/adopt-a-stream).

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, sign up for the "Environment and Sustainability" email news-

letter (see below) or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/solar.

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. 🌿

Rockets to Robots, Snakes to Stream Science — Rockville Science Day Offers Something for All

Explore rockets, robots, chemistry, reptiles and more at Rockville Science Day on Sunday, April 21.

This Rockville tradition, now in its 33rd year, will be held from noon-5 p.m. at Montgomery College, Rockville Campus, 51 Mannakee St. The free event offers individuals and families a chance to experience hands-on science and technology-related exhibits, activities, games and demonstrations from 100 local organizations and businesses.

Activities and exhibits include building and

launching rockets and exploring telescopes, robotics, backyard wildlife, microscopes, snakes, stream science, Civil War medical practice, coding challenges, math puzzles, chemistry in action, electric vehicles, quadcopters, archaeology mini-digs, 3-D printing, brain games and much more.

As with admission, parking is free. Food will be available for purchase. The event will be held rain or shine.

Volunteers are needed. Student Service Learning hours are available for stu-

dents 16 and older who help with exhibits on Sunday and/or with setup on Saturday. To learn more, including to register an exhibit or volunteer, visit rockvillesciencecenter.org/rockville-science-day.

Can't Wait for Science Day?

The Rockville Science Center sponsors online science presentations the second and third Tuesday of every month. For something more hands-on, the center hosts classes for all ages and engaging activities, such as Numberphiles math club and a family chess club.

Activities are held in the center's storefront at 36C Maryland Ave. and in the Rockville Makerspace at 33F Maryland Ave. RSC also hosts afterschool and homeschool classes, winter and spring break programs, and summer camps. Learn more about these and other upcoming events at www.rockvillesciencecenter.org.

The Rockville Science Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit supported by the generous donations of its members and sponsors, including the City of Rockville. Learn how to support RSC at www.rockvillesciencecenter.org/support. 🌿

Draft Town Center Plan to be Released

Opportunity for Public Comment Remains Open

The City of Rockville is preparing to release a draft of the Town Center Master Plan.

Hundreds of Rockville residents took part in one of the many listening sessions, focus groups or public meetings, and feedback is still being accepted.

The draft plan will be posted to www.engage-rockville.com/towncenter this month for public review and comment. The page will also have a form for comments submission. Subscribe to the project page on Engage Rockville for the latest updates and to stay in the know.

Before the master plan is adopted, it will go through a public process before the Planning Commission this spring and Mayor and Council this summer, with specific dates to be determined soon.

A master plan is a long-range document that establishes a vision for future growth and development. The goal of the master plan is to create a cohesive vision for Rockville Town Center that meets the city's goals regarding climate action, bicycle and pedestrian safety, racial equity and social justice, and more.

Rockville Town Center comprises about 200 acres of the city, generally bounded by properties along Fleet Street to the south, South and North Washington streets along the west, and the railroad tracks to the east.

Visit www.engage-rockville.com/towncenter for more information. 🌸

Vision Zero Springs Forward with Public Meetings Beginning This Month

Community members can learn about ongoing transportation safety improvement projects across Rockville as the city hosts public meetings this spring.

The projects are part of the city's Vision Zero Action Plan to eliminate traffic-related deaths and serious injuries. Visit the city's online calendar, at www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar, for details on how to join the virtual public meetings described below, where city residents, visitors and interested stakeholders can learn, ask questions and submit comments about the projects.

A virtual meeting from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 12 will focus on an ongoing study of the preferred alignment and design of bicycle lanes and facilities along Martins Lane, from Mannakee Street to North Washington Street. Last year, the city received a \$52,000 grant for project design through the Maryland Department of Transportation Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Program.

A virtual meeting from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 9 will present findings from a Complete Streets feasibility study for Mannakee Street that was funded by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Transportation Land-Use Connections Program. The Complete Streets approach can reduce speeding vehicles by identifying potential improvements for motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users.

The city's ongoing effort to develop new guidelines for pedestrian crosswalks and other pedestrian improvements — another COG-funded project, through the Regional Roadway Safety Program, will be the focus of a virtual meeting from 6:30-7:30 Tuesday, April 16.

Other public meetings, at dates and times to be

continued on pg. 7...



Key Tips: Theft Prevention for Hyundai and Kia Owners

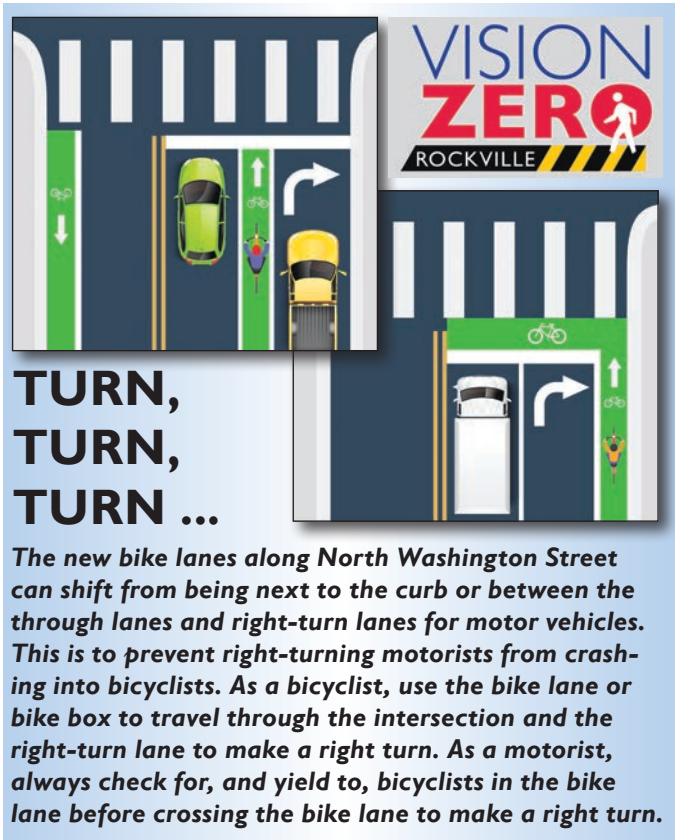
Thieves are exploiting a system flaw to steal Kia and Hyundai vehicles with 2011-2021 model years.

Thefts of these vehicles have been on the rise nationally and regionally, including in Rockville, following social media posts showing how to start these cars without a key by using a USB cable.

Owners whose Kia or Hyundai uses a metal or steel key should take extra precautions. Vehicles with a push-to-start ignition are not at risk.

All vehicle owners, not just those whose vehicles are at a higher risk of being stolen, should follow these tips:

- Never leave your vehicle unattended with your engine running.
- Lock your car and take your keys with you.
- Park in a well-lit area or parking garage.
- Remove USB cables from vehicles while not in use.
- Consider purchasing a wheel lock or anti-theft device.
- Never keep your title or other personal documents in the vehicle.
- Contact your dealership for potential software updates or recall notices.
- Report any suspicious activity, especially during evening or overnight hours, to the Rockville City Police Department at 240-314-8900. (In the case of an emergency, call 911.) 🌸



Tips for Traveling Safely in Town Center

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

- Travel in the same direction as motor vehicles, within the bike lane.
- Cross the intersection on a green light only.
- Be mindful of motorists turning right at intersections or driveways.
- Make left turns using the crosswalk and the pedestrian signal, the bike box or the left turn lane. Yield and signal to motorists before entering the turn lane.
- Watch for pedestrians at intersections.

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

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 \$64,000 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.-5 p.m. Tuesdays and 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesdays at the Community Action Agency, 1401 Rockville Pike, Suite 320.

Appointments are also available through CASA and AmeriCorps, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Fridays and some Saturdays. For information, call 240-491-5774, email lprockvilletaxes@wearecasa.org or visit www.wearecasa.org/impuestos-maryland.

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

Appointments are available until Thursday, April 11.

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

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 first 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.



WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING THIS MONTH? ... March is packed — not only is it National Women's History Month, March celebrates the American Red Cross, Irish-American heritage, multiple sclerosis awareness, 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 Sunday, March 17. Have fun, but be responsible!)

Register Now for the Suds and Soles 5K 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 15. The course begins and ends in Rockville Town Center and winds through neighborhood streets.

The race is open to all ages and features a tiered pricing structure offering limited slots at reduced prices. Adult registration starts at \$37. Register early and save. Race-day registration will be available only if slots remain.

The post-race party will feature live music and refreshments, including beverages from local breweries. Adult runners will receive free beverage samples with their registration. A KidZone will feature activities for children 10 and younger.

For more information and to register, visit www.mcrrcsudsandsoles.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.

Glenview-Peerless to Present 'Colonial Taverns' in March

Historian Jim H. Johnston gives an illustrated presentation on the unique role taverns played during Colonial times in this month's latest installment of the Glenview Mansion and Peerless Rockville Speaker Series.

The presentation, at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 14 at Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, is free to attend and open to all.

As the United States prepares to mark the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War, learn about these uniquely American places where the American Revolution was born and reared. Beyond alcohol, taverns were the restaurants, motels, coffee shops and community centers of their day. There is nothing like them today. Railroads and prosperity were their demise. Johnston has studied and written about taverns — and has frequented a few — and will share his research and experiences.

Space is limited. Preregistration is highly recommended at www.peerlessrockville.org or with course #28501 at www.rockvillemd.gov/ registration.

Rockville Seeks Feedback on Beall Avenue Mural Art Project

The city wants your input on how best to integrate artistic elements into a broader roadway improvement project for Beall Avenue to improve traffic and pedestrian safety in the area.

Public input is being sought through an online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/BeallAvenueAsphaltArt.

The City of Rockville, in partnership with VisArts, was among 25 cities in the U.S., Canada and Mexico chosen from an extensive pool of 200 applicants that have been awarded Asphalt Art Initiative grants through Bloomberg Philanthropies.

A \$25,000 grant from the Bloomberg Asphalt Art Initiative will be used for the project in addition to Rockville's Art in Public Places funding.

The grant will be used to enhance Beall Avenue between Maryland Avenue and North Washington Street in Rockville Town Center.

The project aims to improve safety and make the street more attractive for residents, visitors and businesses through a mural created directly in the street.

For more info, visit bit.ly/RkvAsphaltArt.

Balance, Breathing and Better Health Through Chinese Medicine, This Month at the Senior Center

Stay healthy, informed and entertained with seminars and events 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.

Balance Testing

CAM Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation will perform complimentary fall risk assessments using the Biosway portable balance system to measure balance and stability. An appointment is required. Call Betty at 240-314-8803 to schedule. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday, March 6. Free.

Better Breather's Club

Educational information and tips for respiratory issues. The club meets on the third Thursday of each month. Register with course #29759. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Thursday,

March 21. Free.

Self-Care for Your Good Health

Simple and effective tips from Jin Shin Jyutsu, a deeply healing ancient modality. Help with daily care, boosting the immune system, headaches, cold, stomach aches, pain and more. Presented by Betty Figlure, Jin Shin Jyutsu practitioner, certified massage therapist and wellness coordinator at the Rockville Senior Center. Register with course #29850. 1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, March 21. Free. Hybrid.

Reinvigorate Your Spring with Traditional Chinese Medicine

Did you know acupuncture is just one modality in a larger system of medicine known as traditional Chinese medicine? In addition to acupuncture, practitioners use herbs, moxibustion and cupping to treat a range of conditions. Presented by Suburban Hospital. Register with course #31730. 1-2 p.m. Thursday, March 28. Free. Online only. 🍀

Die Fledermaus, Murder and Spring-time Celebrations at the Civic Center

Victorian Lyric Opera Company presents "Die Fledermaus." 8 p.m. March 1 and 2; 2 p.m. March 3.

On New Year's Eve, Gabriel von Eisenstein is sent to jail for punching a police officer; however, he decides to evade jail for one night to attend Prince Orlofsky's lavish party. His wife, Rosalinde, gets wind of his scheme and follows him to the ball in disguise as a Hungarian countess. Adele, their maid, also feigns an excuse to be released from work that night so she can go to the ball disguised as a Russian actress named Olga. Mistaken identities abound and frivolity ensues.

Presented fully staged with full orchestra. The March 1 performance will feature American Sign Language interpretation.

Tickets cost \$28, \$26 for seniors 65 and older, and \$24 for students. Visit fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/Fledermaus for tickets and more information.

Civic Center Park Puppet Show presents "Rufus: A Story of Acceptance and Inclusion." 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 2.

Rufus, a shy little dog, has lost his owner. Stuck in the rain and hungry, he meets the audience and asks for their help. He meets Dr. Tooth, a walrus dentist, who believes Rufus is "different looking." Dr. Tooth learns the importance of acceptance and inclusion, and that Rufus is special because he's different. Of course, everyone lives happily ever after. Features the world of Blue Sky Puppets.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/registration and use course #29833 to register for the 11 a.m. performance, or course #29834 for the 12:30 p.m. show.

Recommended for ages 2-10. Includes a craft project. Tickets cost \$4 for residents and \$6 for nonresidents.

The Rockville Concert Band presents "A

Celebration of Springtime." 3 p.m. Sunday, March 10.

Samuel Broomell is guest conductor for an inspiring musical journey through classical and contemporary compositions for the wind band.

No tickets are required, but a \$5 donation is suggested. Visit rockvilleconcertband.org to learn more.

The Rockville Civic Ballet presents "Giselle." See the article on this page.

Murder at the Mansion presents "Calamity in Camelot." 8 p.m. April 5 and 6; 2 p.m. April 7.

It's the merry month of May in Camelot and murder is in the air! Old King Pellinore has been found dead beside the lake and several legendary characters are suspects, including King Arthur, Queen Guinevere, Sir Lancelot, Mordred, Morgan le Fay and even The Lady of Lake. Was Pelly drowned, poisoned or stabbed, and by whom?

Tickets cost \$35 and \$30 for seniors (65 and older) and students with ID. A ticket plus Mission BBQ buffet costs \$55 or \$50 for seniors (65 and older) and students with ID.

Glenview Mansion doors open 90 minutes before the performance begins for the dinner buffet and 30 minutes before the scheduled start for all patrons. Seating is general admission. A cash bar (with beer, wine and soda) will be available. Dessert will be included for all attendees.

For tickets, visit fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/Calamity or call 240-314-8690.

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Glenview Mansion are located at the Rockville Civic Center, 603 Edmonston Drive.

Buy tickets online and learn 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. 🍀

Rockville Civic Ballet to Celebrate Half Century

Company to be Recognized by Mayor and Council

The Rockville Civic Ballet, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, will receive a certificate of recognition from the Mayor and Council at their April 29 meeting.

The certificate will be presented to Rockville Civic Ballet directors Eleanor Simpson and Erin Kwong, who grew up in the ballet company under the leadership of founder and artistic director Claudia Mangan.

The company was founded by Mangan in 1974 with the vision of making ballet accessible to everyone within Rockville. In partnership with the city, the company has flourished. Today, the Rockville Civic Ballet boasts more than 100 children, teen and adult dancers, and is supported by 30 volunteers.

As part of the celebration, the ballet will perform

"Giselle," a romantic tale of betrayal and forgiveness, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 16 and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 17 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Drive.

Tickets cost \$17, and \$13 for children 12 and younger and seniors 60 and older.

Known for its annual holiday production of "The Nutcracker," which is now a tradition, the company also performs original adaptations of Shakespeare, literary classics and fairy tales.

Visit friendsrcb.org for more information about the ballet and how to support the company. 🍀





MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ...

Now on Rockville 11's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/cityofrockville): find out about Vision Zero from an annual report presentation to the Mayor and Council; revisit the city's Martin Luther King Jr. celebration; find out what we do in a snow emergency; and tips for traffic around the new Rockville Town Center bike lanes.

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
H Hybrid: Offering both Virtual and In Person
F Facebook Live Event



10



14



14



16,17

1,2,3 VICTORIAN LYRIC OPERA COMPANY PRESENTS “DIE FLEDERMAUS” See article on page 6. **FSF**

2 CIVIC CENTER PARK PUPPET SHOW PRESENTS “RUFUS: A STORY OF ACCEPTANCE AND INCLUSION” See article on page 6. **FSF**

3 FAMILIES OUTSIDE: VERNAL POOLS Explore the habitats of the John Hayes Forest Preserve with naturalist-led nature outings that will help you and your family enjoy the wonders surrounding the center. Adults and children must register and all children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 3 and older. Dress for the weather. Register with course #30241. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **CC**

4,18 MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETINGS 7 p.m. **CH**

6 BALANCE TESTING See the article on page 6. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **SR**

6,16 LITTLE EXPLORERS Is your little one curious about nature? Join a naturalist for crafts, hands-on sensory activities, games, stories, hikes and more, all with a nature theme. Preregistration is required. Ages 2-5. Register with course #30235. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

6 WILLS AND ESTATES Looking for the resources, forms and publications you need to complete your will and estate? The Montgomery County Office of the Register of Wills will provide information and answer questions. Register with course #29810. 10-11:30 a.m. **SR**

6 ASK AN EV (ELECTRIC VEHICLE) OWNER Join EVADC on the first Wednesday of each month for the online Ask An EV Owner event. Are you shopping for an electric vehicle? Do you have questions about your new EV? Or are you just curious about EVs? If you answer yes to any of these questions, this event is for you. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Visit evadc.wildapricot.org/ask.

8 INTERNATIONAL NIGHT See the ad on page 8. 16 p.m. Free. **FSF**

10 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS See article on page 1.

10 THE ROCKVILLE CONCERT BAND PRESENTS “A CELEBRATION OF SPRINGTIME” See article on page 6.

12 SCIENCE TUESDAYS Monthly presentations and conversations with a scientist. Each meeting focuses on a different topic. No scientific background required, just curiosity. Co-sponsored by Rockville Science Center. Register with course #29753. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

12 **V** MARTINS LANE BIKE LANES MEETING See article on page 5.

14 BALLROOM DANCE PARTY A ballroom dancing, partner-free class that uses all genres of music, from pop, rock, musicals, Latin and more, like Frank Sinatra and the Beatles. Dance the hustle, jive, swing, salsa, quickstep. Register with course #29851. 1:30-3 p.m. **SR**

14 GLENVIEW MANSION-PEERLESS ROCKVILLE SPEAKER SERIES: COLONIAL TAV-ERNS See article on page 6. Free. 7-8 p.m. **GM**

16 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. Register with course #30242. 7:30-8:30 p.m. **CC**

16,17 ROCKVILLE CIVIC BALLET PRESENTS “GISELLE” See article on page 6. **FSF**

20 SELF-CARE FOR YOUR GOOD HEALTH See article on page 6. Register with course #29850. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

23 EARTH HOUR See article on page 4. 8:30-9:30 p.m.

24 ANNUAL GLENVIEW MANSION WEDDING AND SPECIAL EVENTS EXPO See ad on this page. 1-4 p.m. **GM**

27 **H** SELLING IN PROBATE A will allows you to specify how your assets should be distributed and ensures that your wishes are respected after your death. Register with course #29849. 10 a.m.-noon. **SR**

28 REINVIGORATE YOUR SPRING WITH TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE See article on page 6. **SR**

28 CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK MOBILE MARKET Free fresh produce for anyone. No income requirement. 2-4 p.m. **SR**

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

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

Rockville Employee: Mandi Murray

continued from pg. 1...

process for the city's stormwater management facility retrofits and stream restoration projects, inspecting the contractor's work for conformance with site plans, specifications and project objectives. I also inspect the site for two years after construction and notify the contractor of any landscaping that requires maintenance or replacement. Being able to follow the project after construction and see the transformation of the site and the plantings is probably my favorite part.

What advice would you give to a woman looking to enter your field of work?

Pursue what interests you. Don't be intimidated by a field that is considered a male-dominated discipline. Put in the work and show yourself what you are capable of. Women interested in math, science, engineering and skilled trades should be encouraged to enter those fields and succeed.

To learn more about Rockville's Department of Public Works, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/publicworks. ❖

Rockville Employee: Jessica Corazza

continued from pg. 1...

S., Walter Pocasangre, Marco Lemus, Wayne Crim and Larkland Harris) in the routine removal of trash and weeds, plant care, hardscape maintenance and

the planting of 44,000 bulbs in right-of-way beds.

What advice would you give to a woman looking to enter your field of work?

To get involved in horticulture, it is important to seek a mentor. I was lucky to be mentored by Rob Orndorff, who was Rockville's horticulturalist for 35 years. Horticulture is a practice that takes years to understand and decades to master. Text resources can tell you the basics of a plant, but to really understand how it performs in a landscape, you need to work with it hands-on and learn from the experience of others.

To learn more about Rockville's 67 parks, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/parks. ❖

Vision Zero

continued from pg. 5...

determined this spring, will include a discussion of the Beall Avenue Complete Streets and asphalt art project, and walk-the-block meetings for each segment in the second group of sidewalk feasibility studies. The city is seeking community input about the asphalt art portion of the Beall Avenue project through an online survey. For more information, see the article on page 6. Learn more about the sidewalk studies at www.rockvillemd.gov/sidewalks.

For more information about these and other Vision Zero-related projects, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/visionzero projects. ❖

Performers and Sponsors Wanted for Rockville Pride

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

Hosted by the city's Human Rights Commission, Rockville Pride will be held Sunday, June 2 in Rockville Town Square Park.

Interested in performing or becoming a sponsor? The deadline for performers is 5 p.m. Friday, March 29. The deadline for sponsors is 5 p.m. Friday, May 10. Contact Tyree Davis IV at 240-314-8112 or tdavis4@rockvillemd.gov.

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

Veterans and Military Members Wanted for City Ceremonies

Rockville's annual Memorial Day and Veterans 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.

The Memorial Day ceremony will be held Monday, May 27. The Veterans Day ceremony will be held Monday, 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.

Memorial Day Parade Participants Wanted

The city's 80th annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade will take place from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, May 27, in Rockville Town Center.

Applications to participate in the parade are available at www.rockvillemd.gov/memorialday and must be submitted by Friday, April 5.

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, local food vendors, amusements and activities for kids, from noon-7 p.m. Saturday, May 25 and Sunday, May 26. Find more details, as they are announced, at www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH and "City of Rockville Hometown Holidays" on Facebook.

Register Now for Spring Sports

Adult Sports Now Registering

Looking to connect while competing on the field? The City of Rockville's adult and youth sports leagues are now recruiting for spring play.

Spring leagues available 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 T-ball, soccer, and track and field.

The registration deadline is Tuesday, March 12.

Practices begin at the end of March, with games and track meets beginning in 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.

Rockville City Academy to Offer a Fresh Perspective on Government, Justice and Equality

The Rockville City Academy returns in April, with a new format and focus to empower community members and encourage civic participation and change.

This year's program will use a hybrid format, with participants interacting in person and online through a course on the education platform edX. The course, "We the People: Civic Engagement in a Constitutional Democracy," will give participants a foundational knowledge of American constitutional democracy, an understanding of how to encourage others to explore their own civic paths, and tools for crafting their own civic voice and identity. It is built on more than 10 years of academic research through the Democratic Knowledge Project, an initiative of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University.

The academy program will also examine how the

City of Rockville operates, with a close look at city departments and services.

The academy, from Tuesday, April 9-Tuesday, May 21, will include seven online sessions for participants to complete at their own pace and four in-person sessions to discuss what participants have learned and connect them with city staff who help make Rockville a more inclusive and engaged place. In-person sessions will be held from 7-9 p.m. on select Tuesdays in April and May, with a tour of the city's water treatment plant from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, May 11.

Students can earn up to 14 Student Service Learning hours by attending all the sessions and presenting a community project.

Registration opens Monday, March 4. For more information and to register, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/academy. +



NEW SPEED CAMERAS COMING TO WOOTTON PARKWAY ... In a continuing effort to reduce the number of speeding vehicles in Rockville neighborhoods, the Rockville City Police Department is deploying a new speed monitoring system in the 2500 block of Wootton Parkway, near its intersection with Fairwood Court.

RCPD was scheduled to begin deployment Monday, Feb. 26. The system uses a portable camera to monitor southbound traffic. While the system is fully functional, citations are not being issued for the first month. Beginning Tuesday, March 26, citations will be issued for vehicles exceeding the posted speed limit 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.



A CARLOAD OF KING'S LEGACY ... Rockville thanks its volunteers who carried on the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. in January. A week of activities coinciding with the city's 52nd annual celebration of King's life saw 175 volunteers participate in several service projects. Volunteers partnered with Project Linus to make 150 blankets for sick children, donated about 80 backpacks filled with items for children entering the foster care system for distribution by Comfort Cases, created 50 survival kits for unsheltered veterans and pulled invasive plants from a city park. Learn more about volunteering in Rockville at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.

International Night 2024

Friday, March 8 • 6 p.m.

F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Social Hall
603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville, MD 20851

**Join your neighbors for an evening of
fun and entertainment**



- Learn about different cultures in our community.
- Experience dance performances and traditional clothing displays.
- Engage with people from different countries and learn their customs.
- Sample unique and traditional food from a represented country.

Free event with limited seating



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www.rockvillemd.gov

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from environment to our newest volunteer news!**
www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters



Get Into It

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

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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Rockville 11: Hagop Balekjian, Adrian Zlotescu
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BACK IN THE DAY ... "The latest acquisition to the [Rockville City Police] department is a 15-month-old male German shepherd named Boomer," reported the March 2008 edition of "Rockville Reports." Boomer was acquired using Maryland Emergency Management Agency funding and served as an exceptional tracking/explosives detection police K-9 alongside his handler, Cpl. Heath Marshall, until retiring from service in fall 2015. K-9 Boomer died in 2018. Today, police K-9 Bolo serves in a similar role alongside Cpl. Ali Zeighani. The team is assigned to the Special Operations Division.