Rockville Gains State Funds for Parks, Community Centers, Road Safety Initiatives

The City of Rockville secured significant legislative wins during the Maryland General Assembly's 2025 session, which ended April 7, bringing state support to local parks, community facilities and transportation safety programs.

Rockville received \$460,000 in bond initiative funding, including \$200,000 to transform the old water tower on Talbott Street into a neighborhood park and \$260,000 for renovations and upgrades at the Elwood Smith Community Center.

Key transportation safety measures were also passed. House Bill 18 extends the authorization for noise abatement monitoring system pilot programs in Montgomery and Prince George's counties through June 2028. The bill also ensures data confidentiality with these systems, except in specific authorized situations.

The city's ongoing commitment to road safety was further boosted by HB 1173, which allows Montgomery County municipalities, including Rockville, to implement speed monitoring systems on high-risk highways that have been identified by the jurisdiction. Cameras must be accompanied by signage, including a real-time speed display. The maximum civil penalty remains \$40 per violation.

Revenue from these systems is required to be reinvested into safety improvements, aligning with Rockville's Vision Zero Plan. Starting Oct. 1, 2030, and every five years thereafter, Rockville will be required to evaluate the effectiveness of each camera in reducing vehicle speeds to levels at or below those traveled by 85% of drivers.

Additionally, HB 182, which Rockville and the Maryland Municipal League supported, establishes escalating penalties for speed violations detected by monitoring systems, reinforcing Rockville's dedication to reducing road hazards. The bill establishes a maximum penalty that ranges from \$50 to \$425 for the offense, depending on severity of the violation.

Rockville strongly supported HB 343, which streamlines administrative tasks for speed camera enforcement. This allows trained technicians rather than law enforcement officers to certify violations, freeing local officers for more proactive public safety efforts.

Further legislative success includes HB 814, requiring the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services to report annually on youth service bureaus, supporting youth development and preventive services — an advocacy priority for Rockville. One of the city's legislative priorities was advocacy for youth and at-risk youth programming, including restoring funding to youth service bureaus.

Municipal governance received a boost from HB 322, sponsored in the Maryland Senate by Sen. Cheryl C. Kagan, which enhances election administration through stronger collaboration between municipalities and the Maryland Board of Elections. Additionally, Senate Bill 820 increases the maximum fines municipalities can impose for ordinance violations, from \$1,000 to \$5,000, providing potential new revenue streams and strengthening local enforcement.

For a comprehensive overview of the legislative session, find the Maryland Department of Legislative Services' 90-Day Report at dls.maryland.gov.

For more information, contact Linda Moran at Imoran@rockville md.gov or 240-314-8115. BIG SPLASH AHEAD: POOL UPGRADES AND SLIDE CLOSER TO COMPLETION

... Excitement is building at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center as work progresses

on a comprehensive renovation and reconfiguration of the outdoor recreation pool.

Recent highlights include the installation of new water slides and an aquatic play unit, as well as pool gutters, filter tanks, underground piping and other site utilities. Crews continue to work on the final components of the project to get it ready for a big splash this summer.

An announcement on the recreation pool's reopening date is pending. Slide over to www.rockvillemd.gov/rsfcrenovations to learn more about the project and www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter to stay informed about the center's programs, hours and fees.







THE WORLD, RIGHT HERE IN ROCKVILLE ... International Night brought together a kaleidoscope of colors and culture in April with 17 performances in dance and music from world groups from in and around the Rockville community.

More than 300 performers, vendors and guests filled the theater as emcees from the Rockville City Police Department, Sgt. Javier Baquero and Cpl. Derrick Tibbs, guided attendees on a journey around the globe. Councilmembers Barry Jackson, Izola (Zola) Shaw and Adam Van Grack helped kick off the evening, which included a recognition of newly naturalized U.S. citizens.

International Night is a free annual event that showcases the many cultures represented in the city through dance, poetry, song and other forms of artistic expression. It encourages attendees to engage with and learn about the unique customs and beauty within Rockville's diversity.

Visit www.youtube.com/cityofrockville to watch International Night 2025 performances.

Memorial Day and Juneteenth in Rockville

Rockville City Hall and some city facilities will be closed Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day and Thursday, June 19 as the city observes Juneteenth.

During the week of May 26, all recycling, trash and yard waste collections will be made one day later than usual. During the Juneteenth holiday week, Thursday collections will occur one day later than usual. Find more information at www. rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash.

The following facilities will be closed May 26 and June 19: Rockville Senior Center; Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm and Twinbrook community centers; Croydon Creek Nature Center; Glenview Mansion and the Rockville Civic Center business office; and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre box office at the Civic Center Cottage. Find tickets at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre.

The Rockville Skate Park will be open and the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will operate on a modified schedule on May 26 and June 19. Due to the city's Memorial Day parade, access to the center's parking lot will be restricted until after noon on May 26. Visit www. rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter for individual pool schedules or call 240-314-8750.

Parking will be free at cityowned meters on May 26 and June 19.

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

Mayor and Council to Vote on FY 2026 Budget in May

The Mayor and Council's focus areas of public safety, economic development and housing form the foundation of a city

budget that is up for adoption in May.

The budget for Fiscal Year 2026, which begins July 1, is

scheduled for a Monday, May 5 vote. Mayor and Council meetings are broadcast on channel 11 on county cable and livestreamed at www.rockville md.gov/rockville11.

In March, City Manager Jeff continued on pg. 3...

In This Issue...

- Offer Feedback on King Farm Farmstead
- Mayor and Council to Hear Annexation Plan
- Gear Up for Bike
 Month
- Farmers Market
 Opens May 17

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Preserving the Past, Building a Sustainable Future: Rockville to Host Preservation Month Event

Rockville residents can learn how to modernize historic homes while preserving their character at a Preservation Month event on Saturday, May 17.

The event, themed "Sustainability in Historic Preservation," will take place from 10 a.m.-noon at the Grey Courthouse, 27 Courthouse Square.

Attendees will explore energy-efficient and sustainable home upgrades that maintain the integrity of historic properties.

Local historic homeowners will share their experiences with making modern modifications while preserving their homes' architectural heritage. The event will also provide guidance on best practices for balancing sustainability with historic preservation.

For more information, call 240-314-8200 or email history@rockvillemd.gov. Learn more about Rockville's Historic Preservation Division at www.rockvillemd.gov/182/Historic-Preservation-Division.



Leave Out the Gas Blowers When Blowing Leaves: Ban Begins July 1

A ban on the use of gas-powered leaf blowers and vacuums in Montgomery County takes effect Tuesday, July 1 and applies in the City of Rockville.

The ban seeks to address the environmental, noise and health concerns related to gaspowered leaf blowers and leaf vacuums. It aims to reduce harmful air emissions and continued reliance on fossil fuels, and to lessen health impacts that contribute to hearing loss, cardiovascular and respiratory disease, and other health issues.

The ban on sales of gas-powered blowers and vacuums took effect last July.

To help residents and businesses comply with the law, a limited number of rebates for purchasing electric leaf blowers will be available from Montgomery County. Residents are eligible for one \$100 rebate. Applications for the rebates will open July 1.

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



Rockville Sets Community Sessions to Refine King Farm Farmstead Concepts

Rockville continues to seek community input on plans for historic King Farm Farmstead Park, scheduling a new round of public engagement sessions aimed at refining potential uses for the property.

Upcoming community filtering sessions will allow residents to review and provide feedback on preliminary concepts derived from earlier public input.

The sessions are scheduled for Wednesday,
May 28, at Saddle Ridge
Community Center at King
Farm, 300 Saddle Ridge
Circle; Thursday, May 29,
at Glenview Mansion, 603
Edmonston Drive; and
Tuesday, June 3, a virtual session held online.

All sessions will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

King Farm Farmstead Park is a 7-acre historic site at 1101 Grand Champion Drive, featuring eight buildings, including a main residence, horse and dairy barns, and other outbuildings. The city designated the site a historic district in 2006, incorporating it into Rockville's park system.

These filtering sessions follow a series of community visioning meetings conducted earlier in the spring. Feedback gathered during these sessions, along with survey results and extensive prior studies, will inform recommendations presented to the Rockville Mayor and Council for the property's master plan.

"The community's continued involvement is essential," said Tara Stewart, director of Rockville's Department of Recreation and Parks. "These sessions are an important step in shaping how this cherished property can best serve our residents."

For more details and to sign up for updates on the King Farm Farmstead project, visit engagerockville. com/kingfarm.

City's MPDU Program Brings Home Ownership Into Reach

Looking to buy a home but worried about affordability? Eligible households can apply to buy homes at reduced prices.

The city's Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit Homeownership program requires for-sale properties to be available to Rockville residents at more affordable prices than for-sale marketrate homes.

Under the city's MPDU program, homebuilders are required to set aside a certain percentage of affordable for-sale homes. Prospective homebuyers must meet specific requirements to maintain ownership and eligibility.

Be added to the list in continued on pg. 3...

iLa guía para negocios está disponible en español! bienvenido(a) a ROCKVILLE, MD ROCKVILLE, MD ROCKVILLE REDI.ORG/BUSINESS-RESOURCES

GUIDING BUSINESSES IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES ... The Rockville Guide for Businesses is now available in English, Spanish and simplified Chinese. Find the guides, featuring information about City of Rockville government, demographics and data, along with additional business resources, at rockvilleredi.org/business-resources.

Rockville Advances Key Housing and Community Initiatives

Rockville's Department of Housing and Community Development is making strides in advancing housing initiatives and community support programs, following strategic planning and Mayor and Council work sessions.

Addressing Housing Needs

The city is moving forward with a Housing Needs Assessment, which received funding through a budget amendment approved by Mayor and Council on Feb. 24. This assessment will help identify key gaps and guide future housing policies.

Rockville Emergency Assistance Program

To provide additional support for renters, the city is expanding assistance through the Rockville Emergency Assistance Program, also known as REAP. A special presentation on the program's enhancements is expected later this spring.

Tenant and Landlord Outreach

Efforts to increase education and outreach for landlords and tenants are also underway. So far this year, the Housing Action Team has conducted two tenant engagement meetings at rental properties, as well as met with property management teams. The Mayor and Council approved additional funding for tenant outreach efforts through a Feb. 24 budget amendment. Additional outreach events will be scheduled.

Housing Preservation and Code Updates

Preserving existing affordable housing remains a priority for the Mayor and Council and city staff. DHCD, in collaboration with the University of Maryland School of Public Policy, are developing a housing preservation plan, which is expected to be presented to the Mayor and Council in early summer.

The city is also reviewing and updating Chapter 18 of the city code, which governs rental facilities and landlord-tenant relations. This update, which is in the research phase, will focus on enhancing tenant protections.

Building the Housing Opportunities Fund

In a step toward supporting long-term affordability, the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget aims to establish a stable, dedicated funding source for the housing opportunities fund, ensuring continued investment in housing solutions.

Expanding Homeownership Assistance

A work session on updates to Rockville's homeownership program was held during the Monday, April 28 Mayor and Council meeting. The proposed FY26 budget includes funding for a dedicated staff member to manage homeownership programs.

Economic Empowerment and Job Training

Financial empowerment remains a key focus, with four Bank On workshops conducted in March. The proposed FY26 budget seeks to support financial empowerment initiatives, helping residents build financial stability.

City Planning and Economic Development

The Mayor and Council recently approved the Town Center Master Plan, outlining a long-term vision for Rockville's downtown. In addition, research will begin soon on updates to the moderately priced dwelling unit ordinance, aimed at refining affordable housing policies.

Rockville is also participating in the Government Alliance on Race and Equity Economic Mobility Cohort, working alongside the City Manager's Office, the Department of Community Planning and Development Services, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, and the Urban Institute. This collaborative effort seeks to enhance economic mobility and community development.

As Rockville advances these initiatives, residents can expect continued engagement and policy updates designed to strengthen housing access, affordability and economic opportunity throughout the city.

Learn more about services provided by DHCD at www. rockvillemd.gov/hcd.

SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY NEWS!

www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters





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



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



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



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



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



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



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

FY 2026 Budget Vote

continued from pg. 1...

Mihelich proposed an operating budget of \$174.9 million, a 3.9% increase over the FY 2025 adopted budget. The Mayor and Council discussed changes to the proposal during work sessions on March 17 and 24, and April 7. They adjusted funding for community services and enrichment grants, and reserved \$1.2 million in the city's general fund for major initiatives to be considered during FY26, including \$650,000 for the prospective Shady Grove Metro station annexation. (Read more about the annexation effort on this page.) The reserves will help mitigate risks associated with economic uncertainties facing the region.

About \$10 million in new funding will support the city's Vision Zero Action Plan and Pedestrian Master Plan. Other public safety items include a two-year closed-circuit television modernization initiative at city facilities, two new full-time civilian positions in the Rockville City Police Department, support for increased officer recruitment incentive programs and funding for RCPD's annual gun buyback. More than \$1.5 million will promote safety and quality in city drinking water and the water treatment plant.

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

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

As part of the budget work sessions, the Mayor and Council advanced the FY 2026-FY 2030 Capital Improvements Program, the five-year plan for funding construction and infrastructure maintenance that will support 65 projects during FY26. They also accelerated funding for the development of Talbott Street Park at the site of the decommissioned water tower at 200 Talbott St. The state recently approved a \$200,000 bond bill for the project.

Under the budget, the city's real property tax rate of \$0.292 per \$100 of assessed valuation would remain the same for FY26. It has not increased since 1995. All residential and commercial property owners pay this tax.

Visit www.rockvillemd. gov/AgendaCenter for video of Mayor and Council public hearings and work sessions, and the city manager's budget presentation.

Find the adopted FY26 budget document — available in July, and more information at www. rockvillemd.gov/budget.

• Obtain a mortgage pre-approval letter from your bank.

• Fill out the city's MPDU homeownership application online.

To learn more and for eligibility requirements, visit www. rockvillemd.gov/mpdu.

Consultant to Present Shady Grove Annexation Plans to Mayor and Council

A consultant is scheduled to present plans for a proposal to annex 107.9 acres of land near the Shady Grove Metro Station to the Mayor and Council on Monday, May 12.

If adopted, the proposal would expand city boundaries and support transit-oriented development. The annexation, which includes property owned by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and CSX Transportation, was introduced by the Mayor and Council on Oct. 23, 2023.

Mayor and Council meetings are broadcast on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, livestreamed at www.rockville md.gov/rockville11 and available a day after each meeting at www. rockvillemd.gov/videoon demand. Information about the presentation will be included in the meeting's agenda packet, available at www.rockvillemd. gov/AgendaCenter a few days prior to the meeting.

Final consideration by the Mayor and Council is tentatively scheduled for their Monday, July 21 meeting.

The annexation area, located east of Frederick Road (MD 355) and north of Redland Road, is

within Rockville's Maximum Expansion Limits, as identified plan.

Annexation of the site aligns with Rockville's long-term vision for growth and development. With access to Metro, planned bus rapid transit and walkable development potential, the area represents a key opportunity for economic expansion and improved connectivity.

Rockville officials are working closely with Montgomery County, WMATA and local stakeholders to assess the impact on public services, including police staffing and potential future development. The city's mixeduse transit district zoning is recommended for the site to support a mix of residential, office and commercial uses.

Rockville's Planning Commission was scheduled to hold a public hearing on the annexation during its Wednesday, April 23 meeting.

For more information on the public hearing, visit www. rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter to review the staff report attached to the agenda, or select the TV icon next to the listing to watch the meeting.

in the city's 2021 comprehensive



THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT ... Glenview Mansion hosted community members who help keep Rockville running as the city recognized volunteers for their service at an appreciation party on April 10. In Fiscal Year 2024, through the city's recreation and parks programs alone, 1,858 volunteers gave 61,434 hours — a contribution of time valued at more than \$1.9 million. Missed the party? Rockville II takes you there this month on channel II on county cable and at youtube.com/cityofrockville. Learn how you can give back at www. rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.





MPDU Program and

three easy steps to receive a

call when MPDU homes are

Attend a first-time homebuy-

Home Ownership

continued from pg. 2...

available:

er class.

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.

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

Meetings Schedule:

Monday, May 5, starting at 7 p.m.; May 12 and June 2 at 5:30 p.m.; and May 19, June 9 and 16 at 6:30 p.m. Visit www.rockville md.gov/AgendaCenter for details.

A drop-in session will precede the May 19 and June 9 meetings with Mayor Monique Ashton and councilmembers Izola (Zola) Shaw in May and Marissa Valeri in June, from 5:15-6:15 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 II on county cable, livestreamed 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 mayor council@rockvillemd.gov.
- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to mayorcouncil@ rockvillemd.gov or by mail to Mayor and Council, Rockville City Hall, III 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, III Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280, or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at www.rockville md.gov/boardscommissions.

See times and dates on the city's calendar: www.rockville md.gov/calendar.

May 14 and 28; June 11 and 25 Planning Commission 7 p.m. (To participate, visit www. rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.)

Vacancies

- Board of Appeals (I)
- Board of Supervisors of Election (I)
- Community Policing Advisory Board (2)
- Cultural Arts Comm. (2)
- Education Comm. (3)
- Financial Advisory Board (I)
- Human Rights Comm. (2)
- **Human Services Advisory** Board (2)
- Landlord Tenant Affairs Comm. (2)
- Planning Comm. (2)
- Transportation and Mobility Comm. (I)
- Youth Comm. (3)

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

Registering Your Bike Could Help Bring It Back

Registering your bike with the Rockville City Police Department makes it more likely that it could be recovered should it be lost or stolen. Once registered, bike owners are given a small sticker to attach to the bike frame. To register your bike and receive a registration sticker, visit the Rockville City Police Station at 2 W. Montgomery Ave. or fill out a form at www. rockvillemd.gov/bicycling. For more, call 240-314-8900 or email publicsafety@rockvillemd.gov.

Bike Racks Mean Business — And Grants Are Available

Studies show that businesses with bicycle parking near their storefronts get a measurable sales boost.

Business owners without bicycle parking near their shop or office could qualify for a rack — provided and installed for free by the City of Rockville — under the city's Bike Rack Grant Program. Learn more about the program and find an application by visiting www.rockvillemd. gov/bicycling and selecting "Bicycle Parking."

Residents interested in seeing bicycle parking at specific locations can direct business owners to the website. For more information, contact Rockville's bicycle and pedestrian coordinator at 240-314-8527 or bikeways@rockvillemd.gov.

Save the Date to Celebrate July Fourth in Rockville

Join your neighbors as the City of Rockville marks our nation's Independence Day with live music and a 20-minute fireworks display at dusk.

- When: 7-10 p.m. Friday, July 4.
- Where: Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park, 1800 Piccard Drive.

Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park in King Farm offers wonderful vantage points for viewing the fireworks and ample and convenient parking. Learn more and see video from last year's festivities at www.rockvillemd.gov/independenceday.

Be Flood Smart, Be Prepared and Get Reimbursed for Protecting Your Property

Flooding is the most common natural disaster because anywhere it can rain, it can flood.

Rockville provides a variety of resources to help you be flood smart. Visit www.rockvillemd. gov/flooding to:

- Get the guide. "Go With the Flow: A
 Homeowner's Guide to Responsible
 Stormwater Solutions" is available in English,
 Spanish and simplified Chinese. It provides
 steps for identifying the source and severity of
 flooding, finding potential solutions, and consulting a contractor to confirm and execute
 the right solution for your property. It also
 explains how to apply for rebates to offset
 flood mitigation project costs.
- Apply for funds from the Flood Mitigation
 Assistance Program. Rockville offers matching reimbursement funds of up to \$5,000 to
 residents and property owners who have
 made flood protection improvements to their
 properties.
- Be prepared for future flooding. Check out tips and resources for knowing your flood risk, reducing your risk, considering flood insurance and preparing for future flood events.
- Report storm flood damage. Rockville residents or property owners who have experienced flood damage associated with severe weather can help the city understand the impact of intense storms on our community by taking the Storm Flood Damage Survey.



Gear Up and Get Ready to Ride During Bike Month in May

Rockville celebrates National Bike Month with rides to school, to work and in memoriam in May, and neighborhood rides all summer long.

Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee Bike Month Kickoff Ride

Sunday, May 4

Meet at 10 a.m. at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave. Join Rockville officials and neighbors to celebrate National Bike Month. Pedal a casual 6-mile loop along multiuse trails and quiet residential streets to explore some of the city's extensive and diverse bicycling infrastructure. The route includes a few paths, bridges and tunnels.

National Bike and Roll to School Day Wednesday, May 7

Start a celebration or event at your school! Visit www.walk biketoschool.org or check with your school to see how you can join in. Remember: Montgomery County requires anyone under age 18 to wear a bicycle helmet when riding or being carried on a bicycle, including a bicycle with training wheels, on a public street, in right of way, or on a sidewalk or bicycle path.

National Bike to Work Day

Thursday, May 15

Registration is now open at www.biketoworkmetrodc.org for all 15 Montgomery County pit stops, including at Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Fallsgrove Drive, and a new stop at 36 Maryland Ave. at The Square in Rockville Town Center. Pit stops will have free snacks, beverages and bicycling giveaways while supplies last, and free T-shirts for the first 18,000 people in the Washington metropolitan region who register and stop by.

Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee Rollins Avenue Walk 'n' Roll

Thursday, May 15

Meet at 6 p.m. at the Evelyn Drive and Rollins Avenue intersection and join RPAC and city staff for a community walk 'n' roll along Rollins Avenue to Rockville Pike. Discuss pedestrian concerns and learn about ongoing city projects to improve the pedestrian environment.

18th Annual Rockville Ride of Silence Wednesday, May 21

Meet at 6:40 p.m. in front of Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave. Bring a helmet and bike for a police-escorted ride through neighborhoods to honor those who have been killed or injured on a bicycle. Riders must be comfortable riding on streets with traffic and ride approximately 10 miles in one hour. Visit www.rideofsilence.org for more details about this international event.

Tuesday Evening Rides

Tuesdays, June 3, 10, 17, and 24

RBAC hosts rides throughout summer. Meet at 6:30 p.m.
Tuesdays, June 3, 10, 17 and 24 at Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park,
1800 Piccard Drive, in King Farm. These casual rides on paved,
shared-use paths, some sidewalk and short sections of quiet
streets last about an hour and proceed at the pace of the slowest
riders, so no one gets left behind. Rain at the start cancels the
ride; wet pavement does not. Find more rides all summer long at
www.rockvillemd.gov/bicycling.

Ride the Rockville Bike Beltway Sundays, June 8 and July 20

Eat ice cream after a ride on the Carl Henn Millennium Trail, a shared-use path that makes a 10.6-mile loop around the center of Rockville. Rides start at 10 a.m. and end at these local

- businesses:
 Sunday, June 8: Grandma's Ice Cream & Waffles, 389 E. Gude Drive.
- Sunday, July 20: Lil Cakes & Creamery, 844 Rockville Pike. Rain at the start cancels the ride; wet pavement does not.



The Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee hosts rides throughout the summer. Find upcoming rides at facebook.com/bikerockville.

Learn more about RBAC and bicycling in Rockville at www.rockvillemd.gov/rbac or visit youtube.com/cityofrockville and search for "bikes."



"ROCKVILLE ROLL CALL" takes a closer look at the Rockville staff members who serve our city.
In this edition, Rockville II talks with Anne O'Dell, the city's culture, arts and history program manager.
Find "Rockville Roll Call" on Rockville II, channel II on county cable, and at www.youtube.com/cityofrockville.

R11

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

Summer Street Paving Schedule is Posted

The city has released its road paving schedule with work beginning in late April as Rockville moves toward a new method for evaluating its road rehabilitation needs.

The schedule, available at www.rockvillemd. gov/street-repairs, includes streets scheduled for Fiscal Year 2025, which runs through June 30, and Fiscal Year 2026, which begins July 1. The schedule is subject to change based on weather and coordination with utility work.

If your street is listed, look for no parking signs that will be posted within 48 hours of the start of work. Temporary stoppages are necessary for safety but should have little impact on traffic. Paving will take place from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. on secondary streets and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on major streets.

The city maintains approximately 160 miles of roadway. Other roads within city limits are maintained by the state and county, and homeowners associations. The city resurfaces about 13.5 miles of roadway annually, on a 12-year cycle, through its Capital Improvements Program.

Roads are evaluated each year and given a pavement-condition rating. The city considers these ratings, along with the last paving date and any potential construction projects, to develop a list of streets to repave. Later this year, the city plans to begin using

Pavement Condition Index scores to more accurately and efficiently determine paving needs. PCI, which will be used to develop the repaving list for 2026, incorporates many factors including pavement age, climate, precipitation, traffic and available maintenance funding.

The first phase of repaving involves milling, or grinding down, the existing asphalt. Streets may be blocked for five- to 10-minute periods to move equipment or work near driveways. Residents are asked to follow flagger directions and be patient. The next phase involves lowering or raising existing utilities such as manholes to the new street grade, and patching and repairing the asphalt base. Then, new asphalt is placed from curb to curb.

Crews pave one travel direction at a time, spraying liquid asphalt onto the street ahead of the paving machine. Do not attempt to drive through the liquid asphalt, as it may damage tires, stick to vehicles or be tracked onto driveways. The new asphalt is safe to drive on about 10 minutes after compaction rolling is complete. If paving operations are close to your driveway, check with the construction crew before driving onto the street. Pedestrians should use extreme caution and children should not be allowed to play around the new surface on the day it is placed.



Saturday, May 24 and Sunday, May 25 ROCKVILLE TOWN CENTER

FEATURING:

The Warped Tour Band The Nighthawks

Capital Effect • 8 Ohms Band • Mad Decent

The Jovon Newman Band • Blaggards

Black Masala • The Hillbilly Biscuits • Scorpion Rose

Thrive Yoga • Marsha and the Positrons • Ms. Niki's Music Class Victorian Lyric Opera Company

Klarinettenensemble der Musikschule Pinneberg



Thank You to Our Sponsors

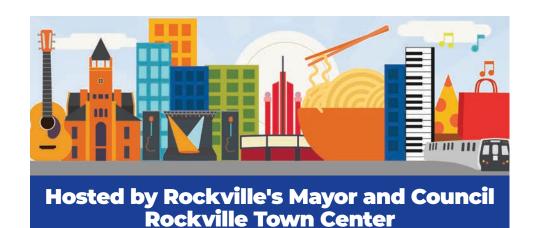
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240-314-8620 www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH #HTH25 Like us on Facebook





www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH



The free Hometown Holidays at Rockville Town Center features local flavor of music and food vendors, including two stages, an artisan shopping area, and kids entertainment from noon-6 p.m. Saturday, May 24 and Sunday, May 25 in Rockville Town Center. Learn more at www.rockvillemd. gov/HTH.

The Hometown Holidays website will help visitors get ready for the weekend. On the site you'll find:

- · The complete performance schedule.
- Participating food vendors.
- Transportation and parking options.
- A list of artisans.
- Road closures.

HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

KIDS ACTIVITIES

Kidfriendly entertainment by Marsha and the **Positrons**



and Ms. Niki's Music Class.

- A kids craft tent.
- Giant Connect 4.

FOOD COURT AREA

Food from local restaurants and vendors will be available for purchase, including local flavor from around the world with a preview of this summer's Explore Rockville: Global Bites campaign. Vendors include Clayboys Shave Ice, Dabarkads Rockville, Festival Concessions, Frosty Softy,



Kapow Buddy, Kusshi Sushi, Mosaic Cuisine, PhoWheels, Pizza Monkey, Pop-Up Poutine, Poyoteca, Scratch Kitchen, Silver and Sons BBQ, Too Sweet, and Trippy Tacos.



ARTISAN SHOPPING AREA

Discover one-of-a-kind gifts! Treat yourself to a new candle, a piece of handmade jewelry and explore a variety of unique creations from talented artisans.

AND MORE FUN

- Beverages, including soda, water and adult beverages, will be available for purchase at two beverage booths.
- Visit sponsor, community and

Punk. Funk and Noon-1:30 p.m. **Black Masala Brass Capital Effect Rock and Pop** 2-4 p.m. 4:30-6 p.m. The Warped Tour Band Punk and Emo Covers **TOWN SQUARE STAGE PERFORMER GENRE** Noon-12:45 p.m. Klarinettenensemble der Musikschule Pinneberg German 1:15-2 p.m. Marsha and the Positrons Kids Music 2:30-4 p.m. 8 Ohms Band Horn-Heavy Funk **Mad Decent** Hits of '70s-Today 4:30-6 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 24

GENRE

PERFORMER

SUNDAY, MAY 25		
MAIN STAGE	PERFORMER	GENRE
Noon-1:30 p.m.	The Hillbilly Biscuits	Bluegrass and Appalachian
2-4 p.m.	Blaggards	Irish Rock
4:30-6 p.m.	The Nighthawks	Blues
TOWN SQUARE		
STAGE	PERFORMER	GENRE
9-10 a.m.	Thrive Yoga	Yoga
Noon-12:45 p.m.	Victorian Lyric Opera Company	Opera
1:15-2 p.m.	Ms. Niki's Music Class	Kids Music
2:30-4 p.m.	Scorpion Rose	Popular Covers
4:30-6 p.m.	The Jovon Newman Band	Country

political booths highlighting organizations serving our community.

Join morning yoga with Thrive Yoga from 9-10 a.m. Sunday, May 26 at the Town Square Stage. Bring a mat, water and a friend, and enjoy this free session. This session will be held on hard surfaces.

UBER IT

MAIN STAGE

Save on an Uber ride home from Hometown Holidays. Scan the QR code at an event beverage booth and receive \$10 UBER



off your ride home from 4-7 p.m. each day, while funds last. Presented by the Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation.



HTH: THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Bring beach chairs or blankets to ensure comfortable seating. Be considerate so that those around you can see the show too.
- No chairs or blankets allowed within 100 feet of the stage.
- Outside, prepared food is permitted.
- On-site recycling supports Rockville's sustainability efforts.
- Most events will take place rain or shine. In case of inclement weather, cancellations will be posted at www. rockvillemd.gov/HTH and www. facebook.com/RockvilleHometown
- Rockville Town Center Park is smokeand vape-free.
- A sensory tent is available near the first aid booth.

SAFETY: For the safety of all, please follow these guidelines:

- No tents, barbecuing or open flames.
- No outside alcohol.
- No wheeled recreational devices.
- No noisemakers, glass containers, drones or laser pointers.
- No weapons, illegal substances or explosives.
- No throwing footballs, flying discs, baseballs or other projectiles. Rockville Recreation and Parks is

committed to upholding the Americans with Disabilities Act by offering reasonable modifications/accommodations, including materials in alternative formats. Early notification allows us time to secure modifications. Contact our Special Events team at specialevents@ rockvillemd.gov to discuss your needs.

Getting there by car: Free parking is available at the Metro and City Hall lots. Free parking in the jury lot, at the corner of Route 28 and Monroe Street, is available after 2 p.m. Saturday, May 24.

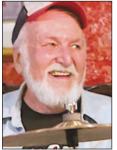
Paid parking is available in Garages A, B and C at The Square at Rockville Town Center for \$10. Cash and credit are accepted and accessible parking is

Getting there by Metro: Take the Red Line to the Rockville station. Exit on the Rockville Pike side and follow the sounds of music across the street to Middle Lane. MARC train service will not run Memorial Day weekend.

Getting there by bus: Ride On bus routes 45, 55 and 301 provide service to Rockville Town Center. Check for delays or service interruptions before traveling.

Getting there by bike: Bike parking is available on Maryland Avenue near Beall Avenue in the metered parking







MEMORIAL DAY PARADE GRAND MARSHAL: TIMOTHY BRADY

Tim Brady moved to Rockville with his family in 1955, graduating from St. Mary's School in 1961. Upon graduating from Richard Montgomery High School in 1965, Brady enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He served in the Navy from 1965 to 1969 as a petty officer third class, E-4, as a radarman — now known as operations specialist. Brady deployed to Vietnam in August 1968 aboard the destroyer USS Hugh Purvis. He worked in the Combat Information Center and was responsible for antisubmarine warfare, naval gunfire support, navigation, and other tasks planning and executing the ship's movements and combat missions. The ship provided gunfire support to the U.S. Marines, U.S. Army, the Army of the Republic of Vietnam and Republic of Korea troops primarily in I Corps near the demilitarized zone. His ship also engaged the enemy, including North Vietnamese shore batteries off the coast of North Vietnam.

Brady received many awards including the Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Vietnam Service Medal with three Campaign Stars,

Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation-Gallantry, National Defense Service Medal and Vietnam Campaign Medal.

After his military service, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in human resources from Columbia Union College. He retired in 2007 as a senior data analyst from ADP and now plays drums in his jazz trio, Step Three.

PARADE PARKING: On Monday, May 26, free parking is available at the Rockville Metro lots, City Hall lots and the jury lot at Route 28 and Monroe Street. Paid parking is available in the garages at The Square at Rockville Town Center off Route 355 or North Washington Street. Cash and credit are accepted and accessible parking is available.



ROCKVILLE CONCERT BAND AND CHORUS

The city-supported and volunteer Rockville Concert Band and Rockville Chorus will perform a musical tribute to America.

9:30 a.m. **MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY**

The ceremony, in the plaza at The Square at Rockville Town Center, includes music by the Rockville Concert Band and the Rockville Chorus; a traditional wreath laying, led by American Legion Post 86; and the presentation of colors by the American Legion Post 86 Color Guard. Rockville will offer sign language interpreters for the ceremony and parade.

10:30 a.m. 81st MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

After the ceremony, the parade proceeds from Martins Lane and North Washington Street through Rockville Town Center (see map below). The parade has something for everyone, with drill and dance teams, multicultural and community groups, military units, and more.

PARADE ROUTE Monday, May 26

Rockville Town Center



MAY/JUNE 2025 ROCKVILLE REPORTS



FACILITIES LEGEND:

Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Rd., 240-314-8770.

GIO Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8660.

F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8690.

- Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., 240-314-5000.
- Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Dr., 240-314-8800.
- Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, 355 Martins Lane, 240-314-8750.
- Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Fallsgrove Dr., 240-314-8840.
- P Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Ave., 240-314-8780. Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., 240-314-8830. Bike Month Event and Rides



Hybrid: Offering both Virtual and In Person













SWITCH TOGETHER TO SOLAR — ROOFTOP PANELS 101 Join the Capital Area Solar Switch Together program to make installing rooftop solar more accessible. Explore options for battery storage and EV chargers, plus incentives and low-income programs. Free. 7-8 p.m.

2,3,4 ROCKVILLE LITTLE THEATRE PRESENTS "THE FOREIGNER" See article on page 11.

3 NATIVE PLANT SALE See ad on page 9. 9-11 a.m.

3-4 2025 ROCKVILLE ARTS FESTIVAL See ad on page 12. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

4 BIKE MONTH KICKOFF RIDE See article on page 4. 10 a.m. 🕕 🚲

4 ROCKVILLE VILLAGES DAY See ad on page 2. Free. 1-3 p.m. Pump House, 401 S. Horners

6 V ASIAN AMERICAN ARTISTS Explore artwork by Asian American artists and the life experiences and historical events that shape it. Presented by the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Register with course #35320. \$7 M/\$10 NM. 10:30-11:30 a.m.

MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION Celebrate moms with a floral-themed garden party. Register with course #35372. \$10 M/\$12 NM. 1-2:30 p.m.

6 H PERSONAL SAFETY AND FRAUD PREVENTION See article on page 11. Register with course #35877. Free. 1-2 p.m. §

7 NATIONAL BIKE AND ROLL TO SCHOOL DAY See article on page 4.

7 AARP DRIVER'S SAFETY See article on page 11. Register with course #35378. \$20 AARP members/\$25 nonmembers. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

7,24 LITTLE EXPLORERS Hike and discover nature with your child. Ages 2-5. Register with course #35314 (May 7) and #35315 (May 24). \$10 R/\$12 NR. 10-11 a.m.

8 H EMOTIONS IN DOWNSIZING Learn to overcome emotional barriers to decluttering or downsizing. Register with course #35391. Free. 10-11:30 a.m.

8 PLACES SAVED: HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN ROCKVILLE. Glenview Mansion And Peerless Rockville Speaker Series. See article on page 9. Free. 7-8 p.m. 📶

13 MEET THE AUTHOR: PETER CARLSON Journalist and author discusses "Knuckleheads," a comic memoir. Copies available for purchase. Register with course #35116. \$3 M/\$5 NM. 10-11 a.m. \$\frac{\frac{1}{3}}{3}\$

15 BETTER BREATHER'S CLUB See article on page 11. Register with course #35380. 1:30-2:30 p.m.

15 NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK DAY See article on page 4. 6-9 a.m.

15 COMMUNITY WALK 'N' ROLL — ROLLINS AVE. See article on page 4. 6-7:30 p.m.

16 LET'S MAKE SOME DRINKING WATER: IT'S NOT MAGIC, IT'S SCIENCE Learn how Rockville cleans and treats local water supplies. Presented by Rockville water treatment plant staff. Register with course #35910. Free. 10-11:30 a.m.

17 SPRING FESTIVAL AND KIDS TO PARKS DAY See ad on page 9. Free. 10 a.m.-noon. 🚯

17 SUSTAINABILITY IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION See article on page 2. Free. 10 a.m.-

17 ROCKVILLE CIVIC BALLET SENIORS' CHOREOGRAPHY PROJECT See article on page 11. The Square at Rockville Town Center.

17,24,31 FARMERS MARKET See article and ad on page 9. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Jury parking lot at East Jefferson (MD 28) and Monroe streets.

18 ROCKVILLE CHORUS PRESENTS "SWINGIN' INTO SPRING" See article on page 11. Free. Donations accepted. Quince Orchard High School, 15800 Quince Orchard Road, Gaithersburg.

21 18TH ANNUAL RIDE OF SILENCE See article on page 4. 6:40-8 p.m. Meet at Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave.

22 NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK EQUIPMENT SHOW See article on page 12. Free. 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park, 1800 Piccard Drive.

22 ART RECEPTION Celebrate the work of Val Fry's watercolor students. Sponsored by Montcare. Register with course #35199. Free. 6-7:30 p.m. **(R)**

24-25 HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS AT ROCKVILLE TOWN CENTER See the insert in this edition. Noon-6 p.m.

26 MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY AND PARADE See article on page 1 for facility closures and page 7 for Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade details. 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

28,29 KING FARM FARMSTEAD COMMUNITY FILTERING SESSIONS See article on page 2. 6:30-8:30 p.m.

28 ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR See article on page 11. Free. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. 😘

29 EXPLORING THE BENEFITS OF ACUPUNCTURE See article on page 11. Register with course #35384. Free. 1-2 p.m.

JUNE

1 ROCKVILLE PRIDE See article and ad on page 12. Free. 2-5 p.m. Rockville Town Center Park at The Square.

3 V KING FARM FARMSTEAD COMMUNITY FILTERING SESSION See article on page 2.

3 AARP SMART DRIVER TEK See article on page 11. Register with course #35379. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. (§)

3,10,17,24 TUESDAY EVENING BIKE RIDES See article on page 4. 6:30 p.m. Meet at Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park, 1800 Piccard Drive.

4 MOCO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS See article on page 11. Register with course #35382. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. (§)

6 SENIOR HOUSING RESOURCE EXPO Explore housing resources, speak with vendors and enter raffles. Free. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

7,14,21,28 FARMERS MARKET See article and ad on page 9. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Jury parking lot at East Jefferson (MD 28) and Monroe streets.

RIDE THE ROCKVILLE BIKE BELTWAY See article on page 4. 10 a.m.

13 '70S GLOW FITNESS PARTY Dance through a retro fitness workout with Zumba, aerobics and LaBlast routines. Wear your best '70s gear and enjoy snacks and refreshments. Register with course #35913. \$9 M/\$12 NM. 2-3:30 p.m.

14 SUDS & SOLES 5K See article on page 12. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Rockville Town Center.

19 JUNETEENTH See article on page 1 for facility closures.

20,21,22 THE VICTORIAN LYRIC OPERA COMPANY PRESENTS "THE BRAVADO: A MORE HUMANE MIKADO" See article on page 11. Bender JCC of Greater Washington, 6125

21 JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION See article on page 12. 1 p.m. BlackRock Center for the Arts, 12901 Town Commons Drive, Germantown.

25 TOTAL HIP AND KNEE REPLACEMENT See article on page 11. Register with course #35878. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. 😘

26 MANAGING CHRONIC ILLNESS THROUGH RESILIENCY See article on page 11. Register with course #35385. Free. 1-2 p.m.

29 MEET THE ARTISTS: ROCKVILLE ART LEAGUE MEMBERS' "CLOUD COVERS" See article on page 11. 📶

 $R = Residents \cdot NR = Nonresidents \cdot M = Member \cdot NM = Nonmember$

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



Watch Out for Harmful Vines

Watch out for and take action when you see climbing vines that can damage or kill trees.

Common vines such as English ivy, grape vine and euonymus pose serious risks to tree health, despite their attractive appearance.

These climbing plants can harm trees by attaching tightly to bark, overtaking limbs and leaves and blocking photosynthesis. In severe cases, this process leads to limb death and eventually kills the entire tree. The added weight also makes branches more susceptible to breaking and increases the risk of trees being uprooted during high winds.

Early intervention can prevent damage. Smaller vines measuring about 1/4 inch thick or less can simply be pulled away from the tree base before they establish roots near the root flare.

For more established vines already climbing higher, the recommended method is to cut them at the tree base and again 6-12 inches higher, carefully removing that section to prevent the plant from

After cutting, allow the vines to die naturally. While dead vines may look unsightly initially, they will eventually wither and fall off, allowing the tree to produce new growth and recover.

If you spot vines on cityowned street trees or park trees to notify the Parks and Facilities Division at 240-314-8700 or forestry@ rockvillemd.gov.

growing back together.

Farmers Market Returns with Food Benefit Matching Programs

The Rockville Farmers Market opens for the season on Saturday, May 17 with a dollar-for-dollar match of up to \$15 for customers using their federal nutrition benefits.

The market will be open 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays through Nov. 22, in the jury parking lot at East Jefferson (MD 28) and Monroe streets in Rockville Town Center. It offers shoppers their pick of farm-fresh produce and more from regional growers and producers, transforming itself weekly as fruits and vegetables become available throughout the season.

Entering its 14th year, the Eat Fresh Rockville and Maryland Market Money program offers market customers a dollar-for-dollar match of up to \$15 weekly when they shop with SNAP/EBT (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program/Electronic Benefits Transfer) and WIC-FVC (Women, Infants and Children-Fruit and Vegetable Checks). Matching funds are

available while they last and can be used to purchase locally grown fruit, vegetables, meat, cheese and other dairy products. The program fights hunger while investing directly in farmers, strengthening the local food system. For more information, visit the market information tent near the market entrance from 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. each

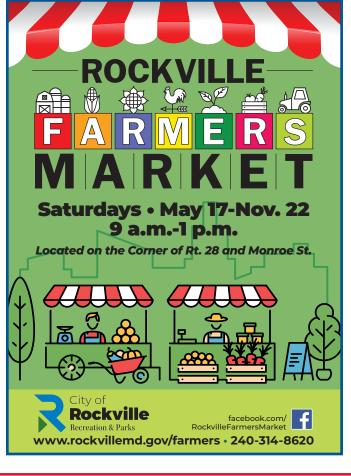
Free and accessible market parking is available next to the Montgomery County Council Office Building in the garage at Monroe and East Jefferson streets, which is across from the market. Parking is not permitted at 200 Monroe St. or within the farmers market lot. The market is accessible from the Rockville station on Metro's Red Line or Ride On bus Route 47.

Visit www.rockvillemd. gov/farmers to learn more about the market, vendors, harvest dates and how to use the Eat Fresh Rockville and Maryland Market Money program.



NATURE CENTER FIRE PIT BECOMES S'MORE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL ... Eagle Scout candidate Jack Zincke and his team recently completed renovations of the fire pit at Croydon Creek Nature Center at 852 Avery Road. The project expanded the fire pit to improve accessibility and safety, while adding new benches to increase seating capacity around the fire. Their efforts have significantly enhanced the space, creating a more welcoming environment for visitors to the nature center. This revitalization project represents one of the final requirements for Zincke's Eagle Scout Award, the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America program.





Rockville Public Safety Awards to Honor the City's First Responders

Members of the Rockville City Police Department, Rockville Volunteer Fire Department, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation will be honored for their service to the community at the 36th Annual Rockville Public Safety Awards on Tuesday, June 3 at Lakewood Country Club, 13901 Glen Mill Road.

Networking begins at 11:30 a.m. The luncheon begins at noon.

Tickets are \$40 per person. Tables of 10, sponsorship opportunities and program advertisements are available.

The Greater Rockville Chamber of Commerce is collecting donations to the nonprofit First Responders Children's Foundation, which provides financial support to children who have lost a parent in the line of duty and families enduring significant financial hardship due to tragedy.

For more information, and to register, visit bit.ly/RkvPSAwards25.

Peerless Presents the History of Historic Preservation and a Historic Black Community

The Glenview Mansion and Peerless Rockville Speaker Series will host a presentation in May on historic preservation and Rockville's latest designated historic site, and Peerless presents a look in June at Rockville's freedmen community of Middle Lane.

Join Peerless Rockville at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 8 at Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, for an illustrated presentation on historic preservation in Rockville. In 2024, the Farmers Banking and Trust Company became Rockville's newest designated site. Learn about the building and other preservation triumphs in Rockville, including 10 local historic districts, 40 designated historic sites and a National Historic Landmark. Discover the city's unique historic districts and how they came to be, learn how historic properties are determined to be worthy of local historic designation and how the designation protects historic buildings, and hear stories of how special places were saved by the Rockville community. Admission is free, but space is limited. Register at peerlessrockville.org or by using course #32191 at www.rockvillemd.gov/ registration.

Following emancipation in 1864, freedmen established a community in downtown Rockville. Black residences and businesses such as Mr.T's, Kelly's Sandwich Shop and Toby's Pool Room could be found along North Washington Street and Middle Lane until the mid-20th century. Today, few of these buildings remain. In "Missing History: Rockville's Middle Lane Community" Peerless celebrates Juneteenth and Heritage Days with a short presentation and walking tour that will highlight some of the vanished landmarks, businesses and homes. Presentations, to be followed by tours, will be held in the Red Brick Courthouse, 29 Courthouse Square, at noon Wednesday, June 18 and noon and 2 p.m. Saturday, June 28. Register at peerlessrockville.org.



Switch to Solar, Together, This Spring

Lower your energy costs, become energy independent and participate in the renewable revolution: Join Capital Area Switch Together to learn about options for installing a solar energy system on the rooftop of your home or small

Switch Together will be the topic of a Climate Solutions Speaker Series session from 7-8 p.m. Thursday, May 1. Find a link to this virtual program with the May I event listing at www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.

The spring campaign for Switch Together, previously called Solar Switch, is open now through Wednesday, June 4. Financing for all incomes is available. This group buying initiative lets residents buy solar panels at a significant discount, with optional electric vehicle chargers and battery storage.

Learn more at SwitchTogether.com/Solar/ Rockville.

Don't own a roof — or have one that is shaded? Consider joining a community solar project. Learn how at www.solarunited neighbors.org/go-solar/community-solar.

Save Energy — and Money — With These Energy-Efficiency Tips for Summer

Small energy-saving habit changes and upgrades can help you save money, be cool and stay comfortable all summer long. Try these when the weather gets warm:

- Set it and forget it. Using a programmable or smart thermostat can keep your home cool when you need it - and help you avoid running your air conditioner when you don't.
- Cool down with a fan. Fans keep air circulating, allowing you to raise the thermostat a few degrees to stay just as comfortable while reducing air conditioning costs.
- Close your shades. Sunlight passing through windows heats your home and makes your air conditioner work harder. Keeping blinds or drapes closed on sunny days helps block this heat.
- Replace filters as needed. Dirty air filters make your air conditioner work harder to circulate air. By cleaning or replacing the filters monthly, you can improve energy efficiency and reduce costs.

Find more resources and tips at montgomeryenergyconnection.org.

Visit Rockville's Environmental **Management Division at the Healthy Homes Fair**

Join the City of Rockville at the Healthy Homes Fair from 1-5 p.m. Saturday, May 10 at the Pryzbyla Center at Catholic University, 620 Michigan Ave. NE in Washington, D.C.

Look for the city's booth at the free expo, which features over 100 exhibitors and opportunities to learn how homes can fight climate change, test ride e-bikes and participate in raffles for appliances, such as an induction stove, plug-in or range.

The Healthy Homes Fair, hosted by nonprofit Electrify DC, also includes the Healthy Homes Academy from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The free program features 30 25-minute sessions open to anyone curious about science, technology and careers in the clean energy transition, including home renovation professionals looking to enhance their skills, embrace technology and boost revenue with value-enhancing solutions.

Learn more and find directions by Metro or car at healthyhomesfair.org.

Connect with us on Social Media.













Checklist to Reduce Mosquito Breeding on Your Property

Mosquito species that have the potential to spread viruses prefer to breed in small amounts of standing water near where people live and work. They typically do not breed in natural areas like streams and ponds.



 Empty out water from children's toys and plastic containers.

If possible, bring indoors. Cover large toys and sand boxes with tightly fitting tarps, or drain weekly.

Remove trash from yard.

As little as a bottle-cap full of water is enough for mosquitoes to breed.

- Clean out roof gutters and downspout screens. If possible, replace corrugated downspouts with smooth PVC.
- Store recycling bins out of the rain. Dump out any water at least weekly.

Even though bins have drain holes, small amounts of water may still collect.

Add an aerator or fountain to birdbaths or ornamental

Mosquitoes do not breed in moving water.

- Tighten tarps and pool covers to minimize folds. If water still collects, shake out the tarp at least weekly.
- Fix outdoor leaks and dripping faucets. Get rid of puddles from window air conditioners.
- Dump and scrub saucers under potted plants, and flush birdbaths at least once a week.

Where to Check:

- Front yard.
- Deck.
- Backyard.
- Roof and gutters (follow safety precautions).
- Along edge of the property. **Balconies** (apartments too!).

Note: Mosquito species of concern typically do not fly more than 150 yards from where they breed.

Compost Correctly and Recycle Right

Rockville offers free food scrap drop-off sites to make composting easy, help keep valuable materials out of landfills and reduce excessive greenhouse gas emissions.

Compost Correctly

Food scraps drop-offs are accessible 24/7. Follow the signs when dropping off scraps at Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway; Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive; or the city's maintenance facility at 14625 Rothgeb Drive.

To use the drop-offs, place food scraps in a container; empty coffee containers with sealing lids work well. Be sure to remove plastic or other trash. Bring full containers to empty into the designated green bins. Rinse the container and repeat.

Learn more at www. rockvillemd.gov/foodscraps. **Recycle Right**

Rockville also offers tips for avoiding contamination that can impact the recycling process. When recycling, think "bottles, tubs, jars and jugs." Don't look for numbers or symbols. Only recycle bottles, such as those for water, salad dressing or shampoo; tubs with snap-on lids,

such as those for margarine or coffee, and small buckets; jars with screw-on lids, such as those for peanut butter, medicines or hand cream; and jugs with a molded handle, such as those for milk or detergent.

Never place these items in your recycling bin:

- "Styrofoam," including foam packing materials, coffee cups and takeout containers even if it has a recycling symbol on it.
- Tanglers like string, wires, hoses, cords, light strands, VHS cassettes, hangers or plastic bags that can get wrapped in the sorting equipment.
- Plastic bags, film, wrap or air-filled packing pillows. Don't put recyclable materials in plastic bags for curbside recycling. Find stores offering bins for dropping off plastic bags at bit.ly/howtorecyclebags.

Always avoid "wishful recycling" — when in doubt, throw it out.

Got a city recycling or trash cart that's falling apart? Call 240-314-8568. We'll replace it. Learn more, including information about special collections, at www. rockvillemd.gov/recyclingtrash.



Rockville Dedicates the New Taft Center

The Mayor and Council joined city staff April 23 for a ribbon-cutting ceremony dedicating the City of Rockville Taft Center and marking the move of city staff to the new facility at 6 Taft Court.

The move relocates nearly 150 employees from outdated facilities at the adjacent maintenance and emergency operations facility on Rothgeb Drive. It also relocates the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Environmental Management Division from City Hall.

The three-story 55,350square-foot building was built in 1991 and sits on 2.3 acres. Design began in 2019, after the former commercial office space was purchased by the city. Renovations began in 2022 and included a complete renovation of the atrium, demolition of the existing interior, and new windows and a new roof on the north

wing. The center includes 87 new offices and workspaces, including new furniture; six conference rooms; a training room; gender-neutral restrooms: outside break areas: and a fitness room. A new locker room is Americans with Disabilities Actaccessible and includes over 125 new lockers, nine showers, touchless sinks and toilets, and other amenities. An emergency operations center with a backup generator is still under construction.

The Taft Center's location is an asset, putting Recreation and Parks staff adjacent to RedGate Park and Arboretum and allowing for more familiarity and increased community engagement with this important and evolving city park.

For video of the ribbon cutting and a tour of the building, search "Taft Center" at youtube.com/cityofrockville.

Protect Pollinators and Earn RainScapes Rebates

June 16-22 is National Pollinator Week.

Bees, butterflies, moths, beetles and other garden helpers play an important role in the food chain by fertilizing plants that produce seeds, berries, fruits and other plant foods. But pollinators worldwide are in decline due to habitat loss, climate change, invasive species and pesticides. Check out the tips below to learn how to do your part to help pollinators.

Plant native flowering plants in your garden, reduce the size of your lawn and don't plant non-native invasive plants.

Plant host plants to provide essential habitat. Butterflies need special host plants as food for their caterpillars. Native oak trees are host to over 400 butterflies and moths. Monarchs rely on only one host plant: milkweed.

Provide water for pollinators. Fill a shallow birdbath with gravel or create a muddy patch in a corner of your yard.

Plant dense shrubs where hummingbirds can nest and native plants with bright red and orange tubular flowers to provide food. Supplement as needed with



a nectar feeder.

Leave hollow stems, fallen logs and bare patches of sandy soil. Most native bees are solitary and lay eggs in tiny tunnels in hollow stems, dead trees, fallen branches or sandy soil.

Avoid using pesticides. Most insects are a sign of a healthy garden and an important food source for birds.

Rockville residents and nonprofits can receive up to \$5,000 in rebates for planting native landscapes, native trees, rain gardens and green roofs. Rebates are also available for rain barrels, cisterns, permeable pavers and pavement removal. Visit www. rockvillemd.gov/rainscapes to learn more and apply for the city's RainScapes Rebates. Questions? Email rockville rebate@cbtrust.org and find more tips and resources at www.rockvillemd.gov/ backyardhabitats.

Keep Fit and Healthy This Summer at the Senior Center

Stay healthy, informed and entertained with the Rockville Senior Center in May and June.

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. The senior center is located at 1150 Carnation Drive.

See the "Adults 60+" recreation guide at www. rockvillemd.gov/life for more information.

Personal Safety and Fraud Prevention

Join officers from the Rockville City Police Department who will teach you how to protect yourself from crime and fraud, and include tips to combat scams and hackers.

Register with course #35877. 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, May 6. Free.

AARP Driver's Safety

Tune up your driving skills, learn safe driving strategies and refresh on rules of the road. Learn how to adjust your driving for age-related physical changes. Some Maryland insurance companies offer discounts for completing this course. The class includes four hours of instruction plus a lunch break. Arrive early for registration. Cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for nonmembers. Cash or check only. Limited space.

Register with course #35378. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday, May 7.

Better Breather's Club

Information and tips for respiratory and breathing issues. Presented by Kerri Donnelly of the American Lung Association.

Register with course #35380. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Thursday, May 15. Free.

Annual Health Fair

Information for maintaining your good health. A raffle, healthy snacks and health tests will be available. Local vendors and Giant pharmacists will be on-site with vaccines. Bring your insurance card.

Wednesday, May 28. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Free.

Exploring the Benefits of Acupuncture

Acupuncture may help

relieve age-related pain and stiffness, improving quality of life and mobility. Learn about its benefits for chronic arthritis, back pain and more. Presented by Jeff Gould, a licensed acupuncturist and Johns Hopkins research participant.

Register with course #35384. 1-2 p.m. Thursday, May 29. Free. Virtual.

MOCO Emergency Preparedness

When emergencies happen, it's important to be prepared. Matt Miziorko, an emergency management specialist, will discuss the importance of preparation, developing an emergency plan, emergency supplies, and training and education opportunities throughout the county.

Register with course #35382. 1-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 4. Free.

AARP Smart Driver TEK

Get comfortable with the new vehicle technologies that are changing the driving experience, such as blind-spot warnings, drowsy driver alerts, emergency response systems and more. Presented by Michael Akerman.

Register with course #35379. 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 3. Free.

Total Hip and Knee Replacement

What to expect before and after surgery, from rehabilitation to return to function. Daniel Lentscher, director of industrial rehabilitation at CAM Physical Therapy, will explain joint anatomy, surgery expectations, and strategies to improve daily activity and quality of life.

Register with course #35878. 1-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 25. Free.

Managing Chronic Illness Through Resiliency

Build your resilience through acceptance, control, support, optimism and self-care. Philip Ridley will share how to maximize your ability to recover from the challenges of a chronic illness.

Register with course #35385. 1-2 p.m. Thursday, June 26. Free.

May and June at the Theater and the Civic Center

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Social Hall is closed for improvements until Sept. 1.

Tickets are sold through the Fitzgerald theater box office and can be purchased by calling 240-314-8690 or visiting www.rockvillemd. gov/theatre.

The Victorian Lyric Opera Company presents "The Bravado: A More Humane Mikado"

8 p.m. Friday and Saturday June 20 and 21; 2 p.m. Sunday, June 22. Kreeger Auditorium of the Bender JCC of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road.

Tickets cost \$28 for adults, \$26 for seniors 65 and older and \$24 for students.

This semi-staged concert performance presents the timeless operetta known for its sharp wit, catchy tunes and satirical commentary on society and politics. This updated version honors the original's spirit with new insights and contemporary relevance.

Visit fscottfitzgerald. showare.com/Bravado for tickets and more information.

Rockville Little Theatre presents "The Foreigner"

8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 2 and 3; 2 p.m. Sunday, May 4. Kreeger Auditorium of the Bender JCC of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road.

Hilarious hospitality awaits "The Foreigner" in Larry Shue's classic stranger comedy. When the guests of the Meeks' Georgia fishing lodge assume their new guest doesn't understand them, he overhears everything from the hilarious to the nefarious. Note that "The Foreigner" contains prominent displays of racism, depicts racist language and is recommended for ages 13 and older. Directed by Kathryn Hegwood.

Tickets cost \$22, \$20 for seniors and students. Visit fscottfitzgerald.showare. com/TheForeigner for tickets and more information.

Rockville Civic Ballet Seniors' Choreography Project

2 p.m. Saturday, May 17. The Square, Rockville Town Center, 36 Maryland Ave.

Bring a lawn chair and enjoy a special presentation by the senior high school students in the Rockville Civic Ballet company. Directed by Eleanor Simpson and Erin Kwong.

In case of inclement

weather, call 240-314-8681 after noon regarding cancellation.

Visit friendsrcb.org to learn more.

Rockville Chorus Presents "Swingin' Into Spring"

7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 18. Quince Orchard High School,15800 Quince Orchard Road, Gaithersburg.

Featuring "It Don't
Mean a Thing if it Ain't Got
That Swing," with music
by Duke Ellington and arranged by Mac Huff; choral
highlights from "Wicked,"
with music and lyrics by
Stephen Schwartz and arranged by Mark Brymer; and
"Baba Yetu," with music by
Christopher Tin and a Swahili
adaptation of "The Lord's
Prayer," by Chris Kiagiri.

No tickets are required, but donations are greatly appreciated.

Visit rockvillechorus.org for more information.

Rockville Art League Juried Members' Spring Show

Varied media from the Rockville Art League will be on display from Monday, May 19-Friday, June 20 at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.

RAL members will be available to discuss their artwork at a free meet-the-artists event from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, June 1.

Rockville Art League Members' "Cloud Covers"

Clouds have the power to inspire daydreams and allow for a momentary getaway. Spend time with your head in the clouds, look for silver linings and maybe find yourself on cloud nine.

Members from the Rockville Art League will be available to discuss their artwork, in varied media, from this themed show, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, June 29. The show will be on exhibit from June 29-Friday, Aug. 29.

RAL was founded by a collective of artists in Rockville and the surrounding area. In 1958, RAL was incorporated as a nonprofit organization to promote the development of the fine arts within its membership and community. Visit rockvilleartleague.org for more information.

The ADA-accessible gallery, on the second floor of Glenview Mansion at 603 Edmonston Drive, is open 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and closed on official city holidays.



All-Time Earth

The Mayor and Council on April 7 issued a proclamation declaring April as Earth Month, April 22 as Earth Day, and March 22 as Earth Hour. Earth Hour is an international effort in support of climate change action. Learn more and find ways to participate in Earth Hour every day at www.earthhour.org. Jen Hawse (center, holding proclamation), a member of the city's Environment Commission, accepted the proclamation. For video of the proclamation presentation, visit youtube.com/cityofrockville and search "April 2025 Mayor and Council Proclamations." Find ways to celebrate Earth Month all spring long at www.rockvillemd.gov/earthmonth.





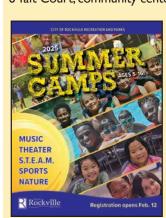
Summer Activity Highlights in the Rockville Recreation Guides

General registration opens 8:30 a.m. Thursday, May 8.

"Life in Rockville": Find classes, programs and special events for all ages and interests.

"Adults 60+": A guide especially for the 60-plus community.

Find the guides at www.rockvillemd.gov/ guide or in print at City Hall, the Taft Center at 6 Taft Court, community centers and libraries.



Summer Camps Slots Still Available

Get ready for an unforgettable summer with something for every interest and imagination at Rockville's summer camps —

but be quick! Camps are filling up fast!

Space is still available if your child wants to rock out at School of Music Camp, score touchdowns in Flag Football and Swim, explore digital worlds with Into the Metaverse, get creative with Mudskippers Pottery, or discover wonders of the outdoors with Little Explorers Nature Camp.

Register now at www.rockvillemd.gov/ registration and see the "2025 Summer Camps' guide at www.rockvillemd.gov/guide.

SIGN UP FOR THE CITY'S MANY NEWSLETTERS -

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

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Rockville to Celebrate Juneteenth with Montgomery County

The City of Rockville will once again join Montgomery County in celebrating Juneteenth on Saturday, June 21 at BlackRock Center for the Arts, 12901 Town Commons Drive, in Germantown.

Find more details about Juneteenth, as they become available, at www.rockvillemd.gov/luneteenth.

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when the Union army arrived in Texas bearing federal orders proclaiming the end of slavery.

In July 2020, the Mayor and Council approved a resolution making Rockville the first municipality in Maryland to recognize Juneteenth as a paid city holiday. City facilities will be closed in observance of Juneteenth on Thursday, June 19. See the article on page 1 for details.

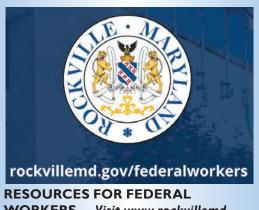
Grill With Skill — Do It Safely

Nicer weather means it's time to grill. When you do, be safe! Only grill outdoors, well away from your home, deck and overhanging branches. Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away from the grill. Keep the grill clean and free from grease or fat buildup. Never leave a grill unattended.

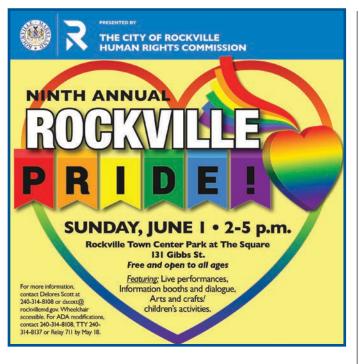
Find these tips and more at www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/home-fire-safety/grilling.







WORKERS ... Visit www.rockvillemd. gov/federalworkers for a list of resources for federal employees and other workers impacted by the federal government transition.



Performers and Sponsors Wanted for Rockville Pride

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

Hosted by the city's Human Rights Commission, Rockville Pride will be held 2-5 p.m. Sunday, June 1 in Rockville Town Square Park in Rockville Town Center Park at The Square, 131 Gibbs St. The event is free, open to all ages and wheelchair accessible.

Interested in becoming a sponsor? Contact Delores Scott by Thursday, May 1 at 240-314-8108 or dscott@ rockvillemd.gov.

Learn more at www. rockvillemd.gov/pride.

Last Call to Lace Up for the Suds and Soles 5K

Register now 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 14. 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 kids activities, live music and refreshments, including beverages from local breweries. Runners aged 21 and over will receive free beverage samples with their registration.

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.rockville md.gov/sudsandsoles.



Equipment Show to Highlight the 'People, Purpose, Presence' of Public Works

Climb into the operator's seat of some of the big trucks used by the city's Department of Public Works as the City of Rockville joins the American Public Works Association to celebrate National Public Works Week, Monday, May 19-Friday, May 23.

The highlight of the week will be the city's annual Equipment Show, from 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 22 at Mattie J. T. Stepanek Park, 1800 Piccard Drive.

The free show includes displays, demonstrations, popcorn, coloring books and other giveaways, and the chance to meet some of the public works employees who provide important services that keep Rockville running. It features exhibits on recycling and trash, environmental management, the city's water treatment plant, water and sewer operations, and stormwater management. School and daycare groups are welcome.

More than 32,000 APWA members in the U.S. and Canada use the week to energize and educate the public about the important contributions of public works, including planning, building, managing and operating infrastructure and services in our communities.

This year's Public Works Week theme, "People, Purpose, Presence," highlights the way public works professionals are ever present, making communities safer and better places to live. Follow the celebration on social media at #NPWW and #PeopleMatter.

Rockville's Department of Public Works provides water, wastewater, stormwater, streets, recycling and trash, transportation, fleet services, engineering, and environmental and right-of-way management.

To learn more, visit www. rockvillemd.gov/public works or call 240-314-8500.

VISARTS' 13TH ANNUAL

ROCKVILLE ARTS FESTIVAL

MAY 3-4, 2025 | 10 AM-5 PM | THE SQUARE

Maryland Ave + E Middle Ln

130 Artists + Artisans
Makers Market
Art Demonstrations
Chalk Art Competition
Food Trucks
Free Admission
Free Two-Hour Parking
Red Line Metro Accessible





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