

# Proclamation



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WHEREAS, Rockville is home to a diverse Asian community that adds to the richness and culture of our great City; and

WHEREAS, the Lunar New Year and the Lantern Festival are special holidays for family reunions, thanksgiving, and well-wishing, and are two of the most significant celebrations for Asian communities around the world and here in Rockville; and

WHEREAS, the Lunar calendar is based on a combination of lunar and solar movements. The second new moon after the winter solstice marks the beginning of the New Year, and it is determined to begin on **February 17, 2026**, and the Lantern Festival will occur this year on **March 3, 2026**; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rockville is committed to recognizing Asian culture as an important part of the City and its strong, inclusive community, and the City will celebrate **Lunar New Year 2026** on **Saturday, February 21, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**, at **Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive, Rockville, MD 20852**; and

WHEREAS, this is the **“Year of the Fire Horse,”** and the Fire Horse is known for its lively spirit and enthusiasm, and in Chinese culture, people born in this year are often seen as warm-hearted and hardworking, and the year is associated with opportunities and potential for growth, particularly in areas like technology and innovation.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville, Maryland, do hereby proclaim **February 17, 2026**, as Rockville’s celebration of the **Lunar New Year**, culminating with the **Lantern Festival** on **March 3, 2026**, and call upon all the residents of Rockville to join in this joyous celebration.



Monique Ashton, Mayor



Kate Fulton, Councilmember



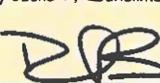
Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember



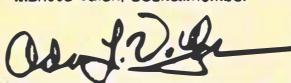
Barry Jacks, Councilmember



Matisse Valeri, Councilmember



David Myles, Councilmember



Adam Van Gack, Councilmember

February 2, 2026