

# ROCKVILLE reports

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FEBRUARY 2026 VOL. 71 #2

## Glenview Mansion Marks 100 Years as Historic Icon



### Rockville History a Century Strong

While America's 250th celebration is coming up, the iconic Glenview Mansion will mark a significant milestone this year as well, with a century standing at the heart of the city.

#### Lens and Legacy: Glenview Mansion and Cottage Open to Professional Photographers

8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Sunday, March 1.

Celebrate Glenview Mansion's 100th anniversary with the City of Rockville. For one day only, professional photographers may take photos inside Glenview Mansion and Cottage for free. Visit [cityofrockville.formstack.com/forms/lensandlegacy](http://cityofrockville.formstack.com/forms/lensandlegacy) to review program policies and register for a timeslot. Call 240-314-8692 or email [civiccenterprograms@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:civiccenterprograms@rockvillemd.gov) for more information.

#### Glenview Mansion-Peerless Rockville Speakers' Series: 100 Years of Glenview Mansion

7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 14.

Peerless Rockville will lead walking tours of the mansion, highlighting the remarkable beauty of the building and the privileged but poignant lives of the Lyons family who lived there. This cosponsored series is free and open to all. Light refreshments will be provided. Register with course #36329 at [rockvillemd.gov/registration](http://rockvillemd.gov/registration).

#### Sketching a Century: Glenview Mansion and Cottage Open to Visual Artists

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, July 19.

Artists are invited to step inside the historic Rockville landmark and create work in-

spired by its architecture, interiors and surroundings. This special program offers a rare opportunity to spend time observing, sketching and painting in a space that has been a cultural touchstone for a full century.

#### Historical Tour of Glenview Mansion and Formal Gardens

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27.

A guided tour exploring Rockville's beautiful neoclassical mansion and tiered gardens goes behind the scenes into rarely seen spaces, including the Lyons family safe, attic, private closets, staff offices and crawl spaces. View historic documents, enjoy refreshments and celebrate a century of elegance. Free and open to the public.

#### Murder at the Mansion and 1920s Costume Contest

8 p.m., Nov. 6, 7 and 8; 2 p.m., Nov. 7 and 8.

A Taste for Murder Productions will present "Funeral for a Gangster." Step into 1928 and join the secret sendoff for mob boss Vito "The Gut" Marzetti at Ruby's Place, the city's hottest speakeasy. The family's in mourning — sort of. Marzetti's widow is hunting for his hidden fortune and the show's audience might be key to unlocking his final, deadly secret.

Tickets cost \$40, \$35 for students and seniors. Tickets plus optional buffet cost \$70, and \$65 for students and seniors. Brunch will be served at matinees.

Prizes awarded to the best roaring twenties costume!

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## Mayor and Council Recognize Recreation and Parks as National Gold Medal Finalist

Rockville's Mayor and Council formally recognized the Department of Recreation and Parks for being named a 2025 National Gold Medal finalist for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.

Rockville was selected as a finalist in the population category of 30,001-75,000, placing the department among four agencies nationwide recognized in that category.

The National Gold Medal Award honors public recreation and parks agencies and state park systems throughout the United States, as well as armed forces recreation programs worldwide. The award recognizes excellence in long-range planning, resource management and innovative approaches to delivering recreation and park services while maintaining fiscally sound business practices.

The program is governed and administered by the American Academy of Parks and Recreation in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association.

Each completed application was independently reviewed by a panel of five recreation and parks professionals selected by the academy based on management experience, agency size and type, geographic location and diversity. From that pool, four agencies in each population category are selected as finalists, along with finalists representing armed forces recreation programs and state park systems.

Finalists were announced in late April, and finalist and Grand Plaque awards were presented at the 2025 NRPA Annual Park and Recreation

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## Celebrate Lunar New Year and the Year of the Horse with Rockville Neighbors



Celebrate Rockville's Asian cultures with performances, interactive displays, kids' crafts and to-go snack boxes at the city's Lunar New Year celebration.

The annual celebration is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at Richard Montgomery High School, 250

Richard Montgomery Drive. Multicultural performances will be presented from 1:30-3 p.m. The celebration will also include interactive displays, crafts for kids and to-go snack boxes, while supplies last. Admission is free. No tickets required.

In its 18th year, the Lunar New Year celebration is a source of pride for the city's Asian community and an educational opportunity for neighbors to learn about Asian culture. The city is organizing the celebration in partnership with Rockville's Asian Pacific American Task Force. The celebration will mark the Year of the Horse on the Chinese Zodiac calendar.

Learn more at [rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear](http://rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear).

### Presidents Day Brings Closures in Rockville

City government, including City Hall and most city facilities will be closed on Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 16.

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will be open for regular hours on Feb. 16. Visit [rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter](http://rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter) for details.

All other city facilities will be closed, including Rockville City Police Department administrative offices; the Rockville Senior Center; Croydon Creek Nature Center; Thomas Farm and Twinbrook community centers; Glenview Mansion; the Rockville Civic Center business office; and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre box office. Theater tickets are always available at [rockvillemd.gov/theatre](http://rockvillemd.gov/theatre). Lincoln Park Community Center is closed for renovations. Visit [rockvillemd.gov/lpcc](http://rockvillemd.gov/lpcc) for details. Rockville Skate Park will be open 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Recycling, trash and yard waste collections will occur one day later than usual throughout the week. For more information on recycling and trash collection, visit [rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash](http://rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash) or call 240-314-8568.

Parking will be free at city-owned meters on Feb. 16.

Learn more at [rockvillemd.gov](http://rockvillemd.gov) or call 240-314-5000.

### In This Issue...

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- 8 Housing Needs Assessment**

MAYOR & COUNCIL  
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Rockville, Maryland  
20850

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## Free, Reconditioned Bikes for TERRIFIC Kids Who Do Good Deeds

Registration is open until Tuesday, Feb. 17 — or until spots are filled — for the 2026 TERRIFIC Challenge, a program that provides free, refurbished bicycles and helmets to Rockville students in grades 1-5 who complete acts of service in their community.

The TERRIFIC Challenge celebrates outstanding kids who demonstrate Trustworthiness, Earnestness, Respect, Responsibility, Involvement, Fairness, Industriousness and Care.

Participants who complete six of 16 approved good deeds, such as volunteering with a local charity, helping a neighbor or contributing to a clean school environment, will receive a reconditioned bicycle and helmet at no cost.

Due to the limited number of bicycles available, preregistration is required. Families of selected participants will receive instructions on how to track and submit completed good deeds. Additional program information will be sent by email on Monday, March 2.

For questions or more information, call 240-314-8620 or email [registration@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:registration@rockvillemd.gov). Details are also available at [rockvillemd.gov/terrificbikes](http://rockvillemd.gov/terrificbikes).

The program also accepts bicycle donations. Donated bikes are refurbished and awarded to participating students. To donate a bicycle, contact Rockville Bike Hub at [rockvillebikeshub@gmail.com](mailto:rockvillebikeshub@gmail.com) or visit [rockvillebikeshub.org](http://rockvillebikeshub.org).

## Volunteer to Shovel Snow

If you're handy with a shovel and don't mind digging out an extra driveway or clearing a walkway or two, you can sign up and volunteer for a city program that pairs volunteers with seniors and individuals with disabilities.

The Rockville Senior Center's home maintenance coordinator organizes the program and can connect you with neighbors in need near your home.

To volunteer or request assistance, email Jerry Jones at [gjones@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:gjones@rockvillemd.gov), call 240-314-8819 or the Senior Center Support Services office at 240-314-8810.

Sign up or volunteer online at [bit.ly/rkvsnowvol](http://bit.ly/rkvsnowvol). For more information about Rockville Senior Services, call 240-314-8800 or email [seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov).

Visit [rockvillemd.gov/winterweather](http://rockvillemd.gov/winterweather) for Rockville's snow removal policies.



**There is hope.** If you or someone you know needs support now, call or text 988 or chat [988lifeline.org](http://988lifeline.org)

**988** SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE



## Resident Runs All of Rockville's Roads

Credits City's Safe Streets While Completing Quest



Call him the Rockville Roadrunner.

In January 2025, Matthew Sushinsky unfolded a city map — the old school paper kind — and set a goal: run every street within the city limits by year's end, with each run starting from the front door of his home in the Silver Rock neighborhood.

On Dec. 19, after 42 runs totaling 443.75 miles, Sushinsky accomplished his goal.

While the feat is a testament to Sushinsky's cardio fitness, he said it also allowed him to discover his hometown, street by street, and gain a greater appreciation for Rockville's commitment to pedestrian safety.

"One of the most notable things is how runnable/walkable the city is," Sushinsky said. "I felt completely safe while performing my challenge."

There were just two streets where Sushinsky said he had to modify his running route. The first was Avery Road where the

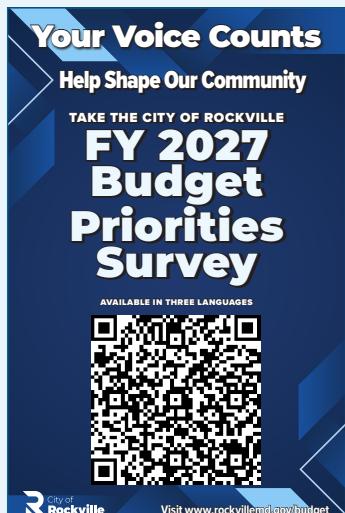
sidewalk ends before reaching the city limits. There he ended up running in RedGate Park, alongside the road. The second was a section of Norbeck Road between Baltimore Road and First Street where there is no sidewalk or shoulder. "The Millennium Trail runs along the parallel street, First Street, so I ran that twice," he said.

Sushinsky said running friends told him about the city's Vision Zero initiative to eliminate traffic-related deaths and serious injuries. The city might be interested in hearing about what he observed while completing his challenge, the friends said.

"Besides those two streets, everything else in Rockville was very runnable, with or without sidewalks on both sides," Sushinsky said. "Thank you for providing a safe community."

Learn more about Vision Zero, including ongoing projects to improve pedestrian safety, at [rockvillemd.gov/visionzero](http://rockvillemd.gov/visionzero).

## DO GOOD BY YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD WITH THE CITY'S BUDGET SURVEY



## Zoning Ordinance Rewrite and Map Amendment Move Toward Final Adoption

Rockville's multiyear zoning ordinance rewrite and comprehensive map amendment project has entered its final phase.

The adoption phase is the final step in updating the city's zoning ordinance and zoning map. The Planning Commission began its adoption review in January with a series of public hearings and work sessions. After completing its review, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Mayor and Council, who will then hold work sessions and public hearings. Public testimony has and will continue to be accepted throughout the process. The full adoption schedule, available online at [engagerockville.com/zoningrewrite](http://engagerockville.com/zoningrewrite), is subject to change.

At its Jan. 14 meeting, the Planning Commission was expected to hold its first adoption work session and public hearing.

Topics included a briefing on historic preservation; the comprehensive map amendment for planning area 12, Tower Oaks and planning area 10, Montrose and North Farm; parking and loading requirements; pedestrian and bicycle facilities; and amenity space.

The commission continued its review at a second adoption work session and public hearing on Jan. 28, after "Rockville Reports" had gone to press. Discussion included fencing, including deer mesh; certain use standards; non-conformities; and the state's Starter and Silver Homes Act.

The Planning

*... Public participation in the budget process is a high priority for the Mayor and Council and city staff. That includes having all parts of the city represented in responses to a survey about community priorities for the city's budget. The community budget priorities survey is available in English, Spanish and simplified Chinese at [rockvillemd.gov/budget](http://rockvillemd.gov/budget). Survey responses provide valuable input to the Mayor and Council for their budget discussions.*

*Public hearings on the Fiscal Year 2027 city budget resume in March, following the introduction of the city manager's budget proposal.*

*The city manager's FY27 budget proposal will be presented Monday, March 9, followed by public hearings and work sessions on Mondays, March 9 and 23, and a final balancing and Capital Improvements Program work session on Monday, April 13. The budget is scheduled for adoption on Monday, May 4.*



mayor council@rockvillemd.gov



**Mayor Monique Ashton**  
240-314-8291  
mashton@rockvillemd.gov



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



**Councilmember Barry Jackson**  
240-314-8295 • b.jackson@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

## Conversations with the Mayor and Council to Connect Community with its City

A new Rockville 11 show gives the community a closer look at city issues, initiatives and decision-making.

“Conversations with the Mayor and Council” features rotating members of the Mayor and Council leading discussions with city leaders and staff on topics ranging from legislation and city services to programs and upcoming events. The goal of the series is to provide clearer insight into how the city works and what’s happening across Rockville.

The first episode, which is focused on public safety, is hosted by Councilmember

Barry Jackson. Jackson sits down with Rockville City Police Department Chief Jason West for an in-depth conversation covering traffic safety initiatives, community policing efforts and new police programs planned for the city.

The new program “will be a meaningful opportunity to connect with you, our great community,” Jackson said in a promo for the show.

Watch the first episode of “Conversations with the Mayor and Council” on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable and at youtube.com/cityofrockville.

## City Manager to Present Budget Proposal to Mayor and Council on March 9

### Community Priorities Survey Offers Opportunity for Neighborhood Representation

City Manager Jeff Mihelich is scheduled to present Rockville’s proposed Fiscal Year 2026 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program on Monday, March 9, followed by Mayor and Council public hearings and work sessions in March and April. The proposed budget will be available beginning Friday, March 6 at rockvillemd.gov/budget.

Public participation in the budget process is a high priority for the Mayor and Council and city staff. That includes having all parts of the city represented in responses to a survey about community priorities for the city’s budget.

The community budget priorities survey is available in English, Spanish and simplified Chinese at rockvillemd.gov/budget. The survey takes 5-10 minutes to complete and provides valuable input to the Mayor and Council for their

budget discussions.

The Mayor and Council are scheduled to hold public hearings and work sessions on Mondays, March 9 and 23. A final balancing and Capital Improvements Program work session, and the closing of the public record, is scheduled for Monday, April 13.

The Mayor and Council are scheduled to adopt the budget on Monday, May 4. FY27 begins Wednesday, July 1.

The \$175.5 million budget for Fiscal Year 2026, which began July 1, keeps the city’s real property tax rate at \$0.292 per \$100 of assessed valuation. All residential and commercial property owners pay this tax. Rockville has not increased its property tax rate since 1995.

For more information, visit rockvillemd.gov/budget or call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400.

## Fourth Graders: What Would You Do If You Were Mayor?

March 5 is the Deadline for the ‘If I Were Mayor ...’ Essay Contest

Rockville fourth graders have a chance to meet Mayor Monique Ashton and imagine what they would do if they were mayor by taking part in the Maryland Municipal League’s statewide “If I Were Mayor” essay contest.

This year’s theme is “90 Years Strong: Where Tradition Meets Innovation.” Students are asked to identify a community tradition they value and write an essay of no more than 275 words about what they would do, if they were mayor, to imagine their community 90 years in the future. Students should answer how the tradition and community would change, whether the tradition would help the community work together, and how innovations, such as technology, would impact their community.

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One winning essay will be selected from each of MML’s 11 districts. Winners will receive a \$100 cash prize and a citation from the governor and will be honored, along with their parents and teacher, during an awards ceremony in April in Annapolis. The entry deadline is Thursday, March 5. For more information, including contest rules and forms for submitting entries online, visit mdmunicipal.org/mayors-essay-contest.

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

**Meetings Schedule:** Monday, Feb. 2 at 5:30 p.m. and Feb. 9 and 23 at 6:30 p.m. Visit rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter for details. A drop-in session from 5:15-6:15 p.m. with Mayor Monique Ashton and Councilmember Adam Van Grack will precede the Feb. 9 meeting.

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 11, channel 11 on county cable, live-streamed at rockvillemd.gov/rockville11 and available a day after each meeting at 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 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 rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions.

See times and dates on the city’s calendar: rockvillemd.gov/calendar.

• **Feb. 11 and 25**, Planning Commission, 7 p.m. (To participate, visit rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter.)

### Vacancies

- Board of Appeals (1)
- Community Policing Advisory Board (1)
- Cultural Arts Comm. (3)
- Environment Comm. (2)
- Ethics Comm. (1)
- Financial Advisory Board (1)
- Historic District Comm. (1)
- Human Rights Comm. (4)
- Human Services Advisory Comm. (1)
- Landlord-Tenant Affairs Comm. (3)
- Planning Comm. (1)
- Recreation and Park Advisory Board (1)

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

## FY 2027 Budget Calendar

**Friday, March 6:** Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program available on rockvillemd.gov/budget.

**Monday, March 9:** Introduction of the city manager’s proposed Fiscal Year 2026 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program. Public hearing and work session.

**Monday, March 23:** Public hearing and work session.

**Monday, April 13:** Work session and close of budget survey and budget public record.

**Monday, May 4:** Adoption of the FY 2027 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program.



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 rockvillemd.gov/mayor council. Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting.



## Reminder: Bring Your Own Bag Law Now Applies in Rockville

With Montgomery County's Bring Your Own Bag Law now applying in Rockville, here's what city businesses and customers should keep in mind:

- No more plastic carryout bags at many businesses.** Plastic carryout bags are no longer allowed, with certain exceptions.
- Paper bags will cost 10 cents each.** If you forget your reusable bag, purchase a paper bag at the checkout.
- Bring reusable bags.** Save money and the environment by keeping reusable bags handy. They're sturdier, hold more and won't rip on the way home.

Learn more about the law, exemptions and reporting a violation at [montgomerycountymd.gov/bag](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/bag).

## Safe Steps, Cleaner Streams: Reducing Salt Use for Smarter Winter Deicing

Salt helps keep our streets and sidewalks safe in the winter. But too much salt can harm wildlife and pets, damage infrastructure, and contaminate drinking water. Follow these steps to keep your sidewalks and driveway safe, while minimizing the environmental impact:

- Shovel early** and often. Salt works best on thin layers of ice or snow.
- Scatter** salt to leave a few inches of space between the grains.
- Sweep** up extra salt for future use and to prevent it from washing away.

Learn more at [montgomerycountymd.gov/salt](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/salt).



[rockvillemd.gov/federalworkers](http://rockvillemd.gov/federalworkers)

**RESOURCES FOR FEDERAL WORKERS ...** Visit [rockvillemd.gov/federalworkers](http://rockvillemd.gov/federalworkers) for a list of resources for federal employees and other workers impacted by the federal government transition.

Connect with us on Social Media.



# Call for Environmental Champions



*The Mayor and Council and members of the city's Environment Commission presented 2025 Environmental Excellence Awards to Dawn Samen (holding plaque at left) and Ingleside at King Farm (represented by David Martinsen, holding plaque at right). The awards, presented in June, recognized contributions to Rockville's environmental health and sustainability. Submissions for the 2026 awards are due by Sunday, March 15.*

Know someone in Rockville who is doing amazing things for the planet? Nominate them for an Environmental Excellence Award.

Rockville is looking for residents, businesses, organizations and students who are making a real difference through environmental stewardship, environmental practices,

green building and education and academic achievement. Nominate yourself or someone you admire and celebrate local change-makers making Rockville greener.

Nominations will be accepted through Sunday, March 15. Visit [rockvillemd.gov/environment/awards](http://rockvillemd.gov/environment/awards) to learn more or submit a nomination.

## ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS 2026 Environmental Excellence Awards

Nominate a friend, neighbor, organization or business for making a difference to the City of Rockville's environment and sustainability.



### Outstanding Individual Environmental Stewardship



### Outstanding Achievement in Green Building



### Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Practices



### Outstanding Environmental Education and Academic Achievement

**Nominations must be received by 5 p.m. Sunday, March 15.**

Visit [rockvillemd.gov/environment/awards](http://rockvillemd.gov/environment/awards) for eligibility guidelines and nomination forms.

# Winter Plumbing Protection: Tips for Preventing Frozen Pipes



Freezing temperatures can lead to frozen pipes or meters, leaving homes without running water or burst pipes that cause costly damage to homes and infrastructure. To prevent frozen pipes:

- When freezing weather is forecast, turn off inside valves that control the water supply to outside hose attachments (known as bibs). Open the outside hose bibs to allow any water in the line to drain out. Keep the valve open. Remove and drain garden hoses and drain in-ground irrigation systems.
- Eliminate sources of cold air near pipes. Close off crawl spaces, seal drafty windows and doors, and insulate walls and attics.
- Use insulation, pipe sleeves or newspaper to wrap pipes that are exposed to cold air.
- During extended absences, set the thermostat to at least 55 degrees, or shut off the main water valve.
- In severe cold, keep water moving through pipes. Turn on the faucet farthest from your main valve to a very small, steady trickle.

#### If pipes freeze:

- Shut off the water immediately at the main shut-off valve.
- Warm air around the pipes using a hair dryer. Do not use a kerosene

heater, blow torch or open flame.

- Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn water back on. Check all joints for leaks and other areas for cracks that may have resulted from the freeze.

#### More Tips

- Find tips for safely shutting off water and other utilities in your home at [ready.gov/safety-skills](http://ready.gov/safety-skills).
- The Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service provides tips for preventing frozen fire sprinkler pipes at [ht.ly/H4KSE](http://ht.ly/H4KSE).
- Freezing water can cause rain barrels to crack or deform. When freezing temperatures are forecast, store barrels in a garage or shed, or disconnect the barrel and divert water to the ground using a downspout.
- Eliminate sources of cold air near pipes. Close off crawl spaces, seal drafty windows and doors, and insulate walls and attics.
- Use insulation, pipe sleeves or newspaper to wrap pipes that are exposed to cold air.
- During extended absences, set the thermostat to at least 55 degrees, or shut off the main water valve.
- In severe cold, keep water moving through pipes. Turn on the faucet farthest from your main valve to a very small, steady trickle.

Property owners are responsible for calling a plumber to repair frozen and broken pipes on their property and inside their buildings. If you suspect your meter might be frozen and pay water bills to the City of Rockville, call 240-314-8567 to schedule a service call. If the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission provides water to your property, call 301-206-4002.

## SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY NEWS!

[rockvillemd.gov/newsletters](http://rockvillemd.gov/newsletters)



**3 STEPS TO SNOW SERENITY**

**STEP 1:** Check to be sure your address is within the city limits. Find the Address and Residency Check map at [rockvillemd.gov/maps](http://rockvillemd.gov/maps).

**STEP 2:** Removing snow from sidewalks, driveways and entrances is the responsibility of the property and/or business owner or community association. Learn rules about snow removal in Rockville at [rockvillemd.gov/snowremoval](http://rockvillemd.gov/snowremoval).

**STEP 3:** Help a neighbor in need. Find opportunities to help shovel snow for seniors and individuals with disabilities who live near you at [rockvillemd.gov/snowremoval](http://rockvillemd.gov/snowremoval).

**3** OH, WOW! HERE COMES THE SNOW PLOW! Crews treat and plow roads in priority order. **First are primary roads**, including:

- Major arterial roads.
- Emergency routes.
- Central business districts.
- Primary residential roads near schools.

**Next are secondary roads**, including:

- Remaining neighborhood streets.
- Alleyways.
- Cul-de-sacs.

NUMBERS TO KNOW	
Emergency.....	911
Dept. of Public Works.....	240-314-8500
Water Main Breaks/ Sewer Line Overflows .....	240-314-8567
Rec. Programs Cancellation Line .....	240-314-5023
Rockville Senior Center ( <i>operating status updated by 6:15 a.m.</i> ) .....	240-314-8800
Montgomery Co. Hypothermia Alerts ( <i>report safety concerns for people or pets</i> ) .....	301-279-8000
Report a Downed Tree..	240-314-8700
Rockville City Hall.....	240-314-5000
Rockville City Police Department (non-emergency) .....	240-314-8900
Report a Power Outage or Downed Wire .....	1-877-737-2662



**RECLAIMING THE DREAM ON MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY ...** The Rockville community gathered at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre on Jan. 19 to mark Martin Luther King Jr. Day with "Reclaiming the Dream: Justice, Equity and Action." The celebration focused on fostering engaging conversations on equitable governance, shared leadership, systemic change and restorative practices. Participants were able to reimagine and recommit to fostering a strong and welcoming community. Learn more at [rockvillemd.gov/mlk](http://rockvillemd.gov/mlk). For additional photos of the celebration, follow the city on Facebook and Instagram. Find a video recap of the celebration this month on Rockville 11 — channel 11 on county cable, and at [youtube.com/cityofrockville](http://youtube.com/cityofrockville).

**TREAT YOUR TOILET LIKE AN MVP**  
**TOILETS AREN'T TRASH CANS**

**FLUSH QUARTERBACKS, NOT TRASH ...**

**Defense wins championships.** A good defense in football will flush a quarterback from the pocket. And a good defense against costly clogs and sewer backups means never flushing trash down your toilet. Flushing dental floss, sanitary napkins, tampons, hair, kitty litter, and even "flushable" wipes can cause costly clogs and sewer backups. Be sure your toilet bowl is a super bowl. Protect your pipes and make sure trash ends up where it belongs — in your trash can. Because no one wants a backup at quarterback — or in their pipes — on gameday. Learn more about Rockville's flushing problem at [rockvillemd.gov/toilets-arent-trash-cans](http://rockvillemd.gov/toilets-arent-trash-cans).

**Rebates for Sustainable Landscaping** Receive up to \$5,000 in rebates for installing sustainable landscaping

Eligible Practice	Rebate Amount
Conservation Landscaping	\$5 or \$6 per square feet
Rain Gardens	\$10 per square feet
Rain Barrel	\$1 per gallon
Cistern	\$1 per gallon
Pavement Removal	\$3 or \$6 per square feet
Tree Canopy	\$150 per tree
Permeable Paver Retrofits	\$14 per square feet
Green Roof	\$9 per square feet

Find more details and apply at: [rockvillemd.gov/rainscapes](http://rockvillemd.gov/rainscapes)

## Save Money, Be an Energy Star and Go Electric

Buy Energy-Saving Products Feb. 14-16

Homeowners thinking about upgrading an appliance, replacing a refrigerator, or even changing a light bulb can, tax free, on Presidents Day weekend.

On Saturday, Feb. 14-Monday, Feb. 16, purchases of the following energy-efficient Energy Star products are free from Maryland's 6% sales tax:

- Air conditioners.
- Washers and dryers.
- Furnaces.
- Heat pumps.
- Boilers.
- Solar water heaters (tax exempt year-round).
- Standard-size refrigerators.
- Dehumidifiers.
- Programmable thermostats.
- LED light bulbs.

Learn more about the tax-free weekend by visiting [marylandtaxes.gov](http://marylandtaxes.gov) and searching "Shop Maryland Energy."

### Electrify MC

Electrify MC's four-step process can help residents lower the upfront cost of switching to electric appliances like heat pumps, water heaters, stovetops, clothes dryers and more. Start the process by signing up for a free or low-cost home energy assessment at [montgomerycountymd.gov/electrifymc](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/electrifymc).

Having trouble paying your utility bills? Energy assistance may be available at [bit.ly/utilityassistance](http://bit.ly/utilityassistance).



### Don't Pick Plants in Rockville Parks

When visiting Rockville's parks and forests, remember that plants, whether native or non-native, may not be cut or removed without permission from the city.

Some plants that may appear to be weeds play an important role in park ecosystems. Other plants require careful removal to avoid damaging surrounding habitat. Trained city staff and Rockville Weed Warriors work to ensure that appropriate plants are removed at the proper time and in the proper way.

Community members interested in helping protect local parks can participate in a Rockville Weed Warriors workday. Learn more and sign up at [rockvillemd.gov/weedwarriors](http://rockvillemd.gov/weedwarriors).

### We Need Your Support!



Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization established to:

- Improve recreational activities, programs, parks and facilities.
- Support the Rockville Youth Recreation Fund.
- Assist with fundraising, and the acquisition and maintenance of new parks and open space.
- Purchase equipment and other amenities for the city's parks and facilities.



Please send your tax deductible gift to:  
200-B Monroe St.  
Rockville, MD 20850  
[rrpf.org](http://rrpf.org) • 240-314-8867

**Picking up #2 makes you #1**

**Pet Waste Station**

**CITY OF ROCKVILLE**



## 'Past to Promise' Mural to be Dedicated at Twinbrook Community Recreation Center

Rockville will dedicate Twinbrook's "Past to Promise" mural during a public event at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18 at the Twinbrook Community Recreation Center.

The dedication will be held in the center's multipurpose room, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway. Community members are invited to attend.

Leaders of the Twinbrook Community Association will be joined by volunteers from the Artist Nomination Committee, which selected mural artist LaToya Peoples. Members of the Cultural Arts Commission, city staff who supported the project and members of the Mayor and Council are also expected to attend.

"Past to Promise" was funded by Rockville's Art in Public Places Program. The mural reflects community history and shared aspirations through imagery centered on nature, connection and continuity.

More information about Rockville's public art program is available at [rockvillemd.gov/aipp](http://rockvillemd.gov/aipp).

## Register Now for Spring Sports

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, coach pitch baseball, soccer, NFL flag football, and track and field. The registration deadline is Friday, March 13. 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](mailto:sports@rockvillemd.gov).

Visit [rockvillemd.gov/recreation/sports](http://rockvillemd.gov/recreation/sports) for league details and registration information, or call 240-314-8620.



Prevent thefts from vehicles. Most cases are due to vehicle doors being left unlocked. Deter criminals.

**Don't forget to lock your vehicle doors.**

# From Windmill Tilting to Musical Workdays: Winter Performances Take the Stage

From a celebration of everyday working lives to classic opera, ballet, art and a winter-warming concert, the coming months bring a wide range of live performances to Rockville's stage.

### Young Artists of America Presents "Working: A Localized Musical"

3 and 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14

Young Artists of America makes its F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre debut with a fresh, localized production of "Working," the acclaimed musical inspired by Studs Terkel's best-selling book of interviews with American workers, which unveils the universal truths of dignity, purpose and humanity found in every job. Features new songs by Tony Award winner Lin-Manuel Miranda alongside beloved music by Stephen Schwartz, James Taylor and Craig Carnelia.

Premium tickets cost \$48; \$46 for students and seniors. Mid-tier tickets cost \$40; \$38 for students and seniors. Regular tier tickets cost \$32 for adults; \$30 for students and seniors.

Visit [fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/working](http://fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/working) for tickets.

### Victorian Lyric Opera Company Presents "The Elixir of Love"

8 p.m. Feb. 27 and 28 and March 6 and 7; 2 p.m. March 1 and 8.

A delightful operatic comedy filled with charming characters, hilarious twists and heartfelt moments. When the shy

Nemorino buys a "magic" love potion to win the beautiful Adina, chaos and comedy unfold.

Tickets cost \$30; \$28 for seniors 65 and older; and \$26 for students.

Visit [fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/Elixir](http://fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/Elixir) for tickets.

### The Rockville Concert Band Presents "Hearts in Harmony"

3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15

Music to warm away the winter chill, directed by Christine Higley, including "Overture for Winds" by Charles Carter, "Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral" by Richard Wagner and "The Cowboys" by John Williams.

No tickets are required but a \$5 donation is appreciated.

Visit [rockvilleconcertband.org](http://rockvilleconcertband.org) for more information.

### Rockville Civic Ballet Presents "Don Quixote"

2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 14; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 15.

The Rockville Civic Ballet, directed by Eleanor Simpson and Erin Kwong, presents a tale based on the famous Spanish novel, in which an idealistic would-be knight sets out on a series of misadventures, blurring the line between fantasy and reality in pursuit of honor, love and heroism.

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

Assigned seat tickets will be available Tuesday, Feb. 17.

# Memory, Heart and Joy This Month at the Senior Center

Stay healthy, informed and entertained with seminars and events from the Rockville Senior Center in February.

Register with the course number at [rockvillemd.gov/registration](http://rockvillemd.gov/registration). Learn about 60-plus programs, courses, activities and services at [rockvillemd.gov/seniorcenter](http://rockvillemd.gov/seniorcenter) or by calling 240-314-8800.

See the "Adults 60+" recreation guide at [rockvillemd.gov/guide](http://rockvillemd.gov/guide) for more information.

### Memory Screenings

A quick, safe way to assess memory and thinking skills. Screenings help determine whether further evaluation is needed. Provided by Potomac Courts. Each appointment lasts 15 minutes. Call 240-314-9910 to schedule.

10:30 a.m.-noon, Wednesday, Feb. 4. Free.

### February Is Heart Health Month

A panel discussion on heart health with a primary care physician, an EMT paramedic, a cardiologist and cardiac rehabilitation professionals. A Q&A session is included. Presented by Marquis/Collingswood.

Register with course #38528. 1-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25. Free.

### Staying Social, Staying Strong: The Health Benefits of Connection

Staying socially connected is crucial to health, especially as with age.

Explore the benefits of social engagement for mental, emotional and physical well-being. Presented by Suburban Hospital/Johns Hopkins Medicine.

Register with course #38448. 1-2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26. Free. Online.

# Rockville Speaker Series Explores the Weems Family's Fight for Freedom

A Rockville family's powerful story of their struggle for freedom, separation and reunion anchors a virtual program that will celebrate Black History Month, part of the Glenview Mansion-Peerless Rockville Speaker Series.

"Shadow on the Household," 7-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, will explore the story of John and Arabella Weems and their children, whose lives were shaped by enslavement, sale and forced separation across the American South.

Presented by Canadian historians Bryan and Shannon Prince, the program traces the Weems family's journey through a

wide network of slave traders, Underground Railroad operatives and abolitionists spanning Canada, Great Britain, Jamaica and the United States.

The presentation highlights both the hardships the family endured and the collective efforts that helped reunite them.

Their daughter, Ann Maria Weems, later became one of the most well-known freedom seekers connected to Rockville's Underground Railroad history.

For more information, visit [peerlessrockville.org](http://peerlessrockville.org) or register with course #37309 at [rockvillemd.gov/registration](http://rockvillemd.gov/registration).

# February 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 Fallsgrove 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

**4 MEMORY SCREENINGS** A quick, safe way to assess memory and thinking skills and determine whether further evaluation is needed. Provided by Potomac Courts. Call 240-314-8810 to schedule. Free. 10:30 a.m.-noon. **SR**

**5, 12, 19, 26 TALKING SPORTS** Discuss recent games, big plays and standout performances in this weekly sports talk group for Rockville Senior Center members. Register with course #38271. Free. 10-11 a.m. **SR**

**7 OWL PROWL NIGHT HIKE** Bundle up for a guided nighttime hike to learn about owls, practice owl calls and explore how these birds thrive in winter. Hike canceled in inclement weather. Ages 5 and older. \$7 Register with course #38560. 6-7 p.m. **CC**

**9 CHOCOLATE: FROM TREASURE TO TREAT** Trace the journey of chocolate from cacao tree to modern treat. Presented by the Royal Botanical Gardens, Canada. Register with course #38317. \$7 M/\$10 NM. 1-2 p.m. **SR V**

**10 MARINE MAMMAL RESCUE AND REHABILITATION** Learn about marine mammal rehabilitation and conservation efforts at the Pacific Marine Mammal Center. Register with course #38312. \$7 R/\$10 NR. 1-2 p.m. **SR V**

**10 ILLUMINATION STATION TO SAVE ENERGY** Visit information tables to learn about ways to lower utility bills, apply for energy assistance and exchange old bulbs for energy-efficient LED bulbs. 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave.

**11 PROTECT YOURSELF** Learn strategies to avoid scams, prevent falls and reduce the risk of break-ins. Includes Q&A. Register with course #39069. Free. 10 a.m.-noon. **SR**

**12 MINDFUL MOMENTS: A WELLNESS EXPERIENCE** Explore relaxation, renewal and inspiration with local vendors and live wellness demonstrations. Register with course #38535. Free. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. **SR**

**12 FEBRUARY IS HEART HEALTH MONTH** See article on page 6. Panel discussion on heart health with medical professionals. Presented by Marquis/Collingswood. Register with course #38452. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

**12 THE GLENVIEW MANSION-PEERLESS ROCKVILLE SPEAKER SERIES: SHADOW ON THE HOUSEHOLD** See article on page 6. Canadian historians Bryan and Shannon Prince share the story of the Rockville Weems family and their quest for freedom. Register with course #37309. Free. 7-8 p.m. **GM V**

**13 INTENTIONAL DIALECT** Supportive discussion group exploring how current events affect emotions and relationships. Presented by Jeanne Booth from Rockville's Office of Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. Register with course #38537. Free. 10-11:30 a.m. **SR**

**14 YOUNG ARTISTS OF AMERICA PRESENTS "WORKING: A LOCALIZED MUSICAL"** See article on page 6. 3 and 7 p.m. **FSF**

**14 LITTLE EXPLORERS: NATURE ADVENTURES FOR TODDLERS** Hands-on activities, short hikes and crafts designed to spark curiosity in young nature lovers. Ages 2-5. Register with course #38549. \$12. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

**14, 15 ROCKVILLE CIVIC BALLET PRESENTS "DON QUIXOTE"** See article on page 6. **FSF**

**15 THE ROCKVILLE CONCERT BAND PRESENTS "HEARTS IN HARMONY"** See article on page 6. 3 p.m.

**16 PRESIDENTS DAY** See article on page 1.

**17 HEALTHY HACKS** Live cooking demonstration featuring quick, healthy and budget-friendly recipes. Presented by Johns Hopkins. Register with course #38532. Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

**18 COZY CREATURES CRAFTS AND STORIES** Seasonal stories and simple nature-themed crafts for toddlers and caregivers. Ages 2-5. Register with course #38552. \$10. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

**18 DEDICATION OF "PAST TO PROMISE" MURAL** See article on page 6. 1-3 p.m. **TC**

**19 COUNTRY LINE DANCE PARTY** Kick up your heels at this afternoon line dance party. Country-western attire optional; snacks provided. Register with course #38492. \$8 M/\$10 NM. 3:30-4:45 p.m. **SR**

**19 BETTER BREATHERS CLUB** See article on page 6. Monthly educational program focused on respiratory health. Presented by Kerri Donnelly, Montcare. Walk-ins welcome. Free. 1:30-2:30 p.m. **SR**

**21 LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION** See article on page 1. Free. 1-3:30 p.m. Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive.

**22 TOTALLY TURTLES** Meet animal ambassador turtles and create a turtle-themed craft to take home. Ages 6-12. Register with course #38561. \$10. 1:30-2:30 p.m. **CC**

**24 UNDERGROUND RAILROAD** Explore the history and local stories of Underground Railroad routes in Montgomery County. Presented by Natalie Thomas Williams. Register with course #38533. \$7 M/\$10 NM. 10-11 a.m. **SR**

**24 STORYTELLING WITH ERIN: MEMORY SHMEMORY** Reflect on memory, attention and everyday moments through guided storytelling. Register with course #38274. \$7 M/\$10 NM. 10-11 a.m. **SR V**

**25 INTERVENTIONAL PAIN MANAGEMENT** Advanced approaches to pain management from Dr. Cota of Clear Point Solutions. Register with course #38528. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

**26 STAYING SOCIAL, STAYING STRONG: THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF CONNECTION** Explore how social engagement supports mental, emotional and physical health. Presented by Suburban/Johns Hopkins Medicine. Register with course #38448. Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR V**

**27, 28, MARCH 1, 6, 7, 8 VICTORIAN LYRIC OPERA COMPANY PRESENTS "THE ELIXIR OF LOVE"** See article on page 6. 8 p.m. **FSF**

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

FOR MORE INFO AND UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTINGS: [ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/CALENDAR](http://ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/CALENDAR)

## Glenview Mansion Marks 100 Years

continued from pg. 1

Visit [fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/1926](http://fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/1926) for tickets.

Learn more about

Glenview Mansion and the Rockville Civic Center at [rockvillemd.gov/glenview](http://rockvillemd.gov/glenview).



## National Gold Medal Finalist

continued from pg. 1

Conference in Orlando, Florida.

During the Mayor and Council meeting, Roslyn Johnson, director of the City of Annapolis Department of Recreation and Parks and a board member of the American Academy of Parks and Recreation, presented the final-

ist plaque to the city manager, Mayor and Council, and members of the Recreation and Parks team.

"There are 10,000 recreation and parks departments in the country," Johnson said as she presented the award plaque. "Rockville is in .04%, meaning there are only

four organizations that received a finalist award. So that's extremely special."

To see the recognition, visit [rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter](http://rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter) and select "Video" next to the Mayor and Council's Jan. 5 meeting listing.

## If You Were Mayor

continued from pg. 3

The Mayor and Council consider the contest to be a wonderful exercise in government studies and encourage fourth graders attending schools in Rockville to participate. Teachers are encouraged to submit a PDF of their students' essays to [cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov). 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 [jpenny@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:jpenny@rockvillemd.gov) to arrange a visit by the mayor, though a mayoral visit is not required for students to participate in the contest.

**Make a Difference in Your Community**  
Join a Rockville Board or Commission!

Boards and commissions in the city provide the Mayor and Council with informed thoughts and ideas that help shape Rockville's future.

Learn more at [rockvillemd.gov/boards](http://rockvillemd.gov/boards)

## 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](mailto:rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca). Visit [integritycounts.ca/org/rockvillemd](http://integritycounts.ca/org/rockvillemd). For more information, visit [rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse](http://rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse).



LEARN MORE ON ROCKVILLE 11  
[youtube.com/cityofrockville](http://youtube.com/cityofrockville)

## Drive Wisely With These Tips for Winter Travel

February can bring some of the snowiest, iciest conditions to Rockville. Drive safely with these tips:

**Keep your vehicle well-maintained for the winter driving season:** Check to see that the brakes, heating/cooling system, electrical system, engine, exhaust, tires, oil, lights, defrosters and wipers are working properly. Consider installing winter or snow tires with deep treads to help keep traction.

**Equip vehicles with an emergency kit:** Kits should include blankets, flashlights, extra clothes, a shovel, tow chain, matches, traction aids, flares, jumper cables and non-perishable snacks and water.

### While driving in winter weather conditions:

- Always drive with lights on to help increase visibility.
- Increase following distance. Stopping distances are three to 12 times longer on winter surfaces.
- Come to a gradual stop. To reduce the risk of skidding, don't slam the brake pedal.
- Brake before curves and turn the steering wheel slowly and smoothly to help maintain control.
- Always wear your seatbelt.

## Rockville Amends Forest and Tree Preservation Ordinance

The Mayor and Council approved amendments to the city's forest and tree preservation ordinance in January, expanding tree protections, adding new requirements for native tree plantings and encouraging greater biodiversity.

The changes took effect immediately.

The amendments also update administrative provisions intended to improve efficiency while strengthening long-term protections for the city's tree canopy.

Rockville has been designated a Tree City USA for more than 35 consecutive years and is known for its extensive urban forest canopy. The updated ordinance builds on those efforts by reinforcing protections for trees and forested areas across the city.

The amendments were initiated in response to changes in state forestry regulations. In 2023, the Maryland General Assembly approved legislation intended to reduce the loss of forest and tree canopy statewide by establishing new standards and requirements.

As part of the update process, Rockville evaluated additional changes to the ordinance. Throughout 2024, the city provided opportunities for public input and gathered recommendations from the Mayor and Council. City staff developed proposed revisions, including changes that support efforts to improve development application efficiency.

After drafting the amended ordinance, staff worked with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources throughout much of 2025 to ensure compliance with state law.

More information about the forest and tree preservation ordinance is available at [rockvillemd.gov/forest-and-tree-preservation](http://rockvillemd.gov/forest-and-tree-preservation).

Connect with us on Social Media.



# Summer Camp Fun is Just Ahead!



Rockville's 2026 summer camps are gearing up for another season of fun and families can secure their spots soon.

Registration opens 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10 for residents and Thursday, Feb. 12 for general registration, at [rockvillemd.gov/registration](http://rockvillemd.gov/registration).

Summer Blast Camps return with full-day and extended-day options at elementary schools and community centers. Park Adventure Camps will offer full- and half-day sessions at neighborhood parks throughout Rockville. Both camps serve children ages 5-12.

and run Monday, June 22 through mid-August.

Activities include swimming, field trips and a variety of games, crafts, water activities and outdoor playtime. Specialized camps include cooking, drama, STEAM, gymnastics and art, with new coding and pickleball camps added for 2026. All camps are licensed by the state and follow federal, state and local health and safety guidelines.

Teens can earn Student Service Learning hours as volunteers or join Teens on the Go for daily trips. College and high school students ages 16 and older can apply for summer positions at [rockvillemd.gov/careers](http://rockvillemd.gov/careers). Camp staff are selected for their enthusiasm, passion and experience working with children.

Learn more at [rockvillemd.gov/camps](http://rockvillemd.gov/camps) and view the "Summer Camps 2026" guide beginning Friday, Jan. 30 at [rockvillemd.gov/life](http://rockvillemd.gov/life).

## Rockville to Seek Community Feedback for Housing Needs Assessment

The City of Rockville is continuing work on a comprehensive housing needs assessment, a multi-month effort to better understand existing and future housing needs across the community.

The assessment will examine housing affordability, availability and type, with a focus on identifying gaps affecting older adults, renters, people with disabilities, families and residents with limited or moderate incomes. Findings will help inform the city's future housing policy, programs and planning decisions.

Community input is a central component of the assessment. Beginning this winter and continuing into early spring, Rockville will invite community members to share their experiences, priorities and preferences related to housing.

Planned engagement efforts are expected to include an online survey and in-person outreach intended to reach people who may be less likely to par-

ticipate online. Additional opportunities for discussion and feedback are anticipated as the assessment progresses.

The city will make a particular effort to hear from groups that are often underrepresented in planning processes, including renters, older adults, people with disabilities and residents who speak languages other than English at home.

An open house will be held from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 25 in the first-floor meeting space of Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave.

Information collected through surveys and engagement activities will be analyzed to build a clearer picture of housing needs citywide. A summary of community feedback and findings is anticipated later this spring.

Find details about how to participate, including survey access and upcoming engagement opportunities, when available, at [rockvillemd.gov/housing](http://rockvillemd.gov/housing).

## Rockville's Generosity Lights Up Holidays for Community's Most in Need

Rockville's community warmth and holiday spirit were on display during the 2025 Holiday Drive, with 151 donors donating \$42,442.83 in cash to families and people in need throughout November and December.

In-kind, or non-monetary, donations totaled \$33,615.

Four-hundred-and-fifty-five volunteers donated 1,523 hours of their time. Hundreds of families were helped during the two-month campaign. In November, 549 families and seniors, a total of 1,909 people, were helped with the Holiday Drive's distribution of food. Families and seniors in need were provided with a \$15 grocery store gift card, a box of nonperishable food, a

bag of produce and a pie, via an in-person drive-thru pickup at Elwood Smith Community Center or home delivery.

In December, 915 children from 372 families received toys and books for each child 11 and younger, and a \$25 Target gift card and books for those aged 12-17.

To find out more about Rockville's annual Holiday Drive and make tax-deductible donations year-round, visit [rockvillemd.gov/holidaydrive](http://rockvillemd.gov/holidaydrive).

**Donation sites and partners:** Twinbrook Elementary School; Rockville Swim Center, Glenview Mansion, Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, Thomas Farm Community Center; Rockville Senior Center;

Maryvale Elementary School; and Workforce Montgomery.

**Donors:** Gyozo Japanese BBQ; Setsail LLC; Robert Frost Middle School students and families; Frederick and Bridget Newton; Aileen Klein; Sandra Yerkes; Michelle and Patricia Evans; Caryl McNeilly; Raymond James and Associates, Inc.; Martin Blumberg; Raymond James Global Acct.; Nancy Taylor; Loren Scherbak; Wegmans Food, Kaye Craft; Stephanie Beckett; Christopher Kern; Bernard L. Horn; Apex Companies, LLC; Nikol Jackson; Amanda Schwinder; Marika Brown; Stan Nelson; Rodney Ludema; James and Virginia Russell; Susan Luger; Howard and Joanne Lewis.

**Distinguished donors (in-kind):** Robert Frost Middle School students; Toys for Tots; Manna Food Center; Montrose Discovery Preschool; ISS Corporate Solutions; ProMark Partners; Jennifer Dixon; Rockville ASA PenFed Realty; and Ravel and Royale Apartments.

**Distinguished service donors:** Rockville City Police Department; City of Rockville Department of Public Works; City of Rockville Department of Recreation and Parks; Rockville Volunteer Fire Department; Rosebrook Church; and City of Rockville Department of Housing and Community Development's Latino Youth Development Program students.



**City Manager:** Jeff Mihelich  
**Director of Communications and Community Engagement:** Katherine Kirk-Dantzler  
**Asst. Director of Communications and Community Engagement:** Sean Sedam

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**Public Information Specialist:** Cliff Cumber, Juan Jovel  
**Web and Digital Manager:** Nick Kanary  
**Graphics and Printing:** Lidiya Cochetti, Sylvia England, Eric Ferrell  
**Rockville 11:** Hagop Balekjian, Adrian Zlatescu  
**Social Media and Digital Engagement:** Becca Brown