



ROCKVILLE reports

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MARCH 2026
VOL. 71 #3

Rockville Receives \$2.68 Million in Federal Funding for Water and Sewer Infrastructure Projects

Rockville has been awarded \$2.68 million in federal earmark funding to support three infrastructure projects focused on improving drinking water safety and the wastewater system.

The Mayor and Council recognized the city's congressional delegation — U.S. Rep. Jamie Raskin and Sens. Angela Alsobrooks and Chris Van Hollen — for their support.

Earmarks, or congressionally directed spending, allow members of Congress to request a portion of federal spending to be directed to specific projects or programs. The funding, awarded through the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations minibuss package, will support a lead service line inventory investigation, replacement of aging Orangeburg sewer laterals, and rehabilitation of the city's wastewater collection system.

"We are thankful to the Mayor and Council for their support for these projects and to the [Department of] Public Works team for submitting competitive applications

that resulted in a substantial award," Rockville City Manager Jeff Mihelich wrote in an email announcing the funding.

The largest portion of the funding, \$1.09 million, will be used for the Orangeburg Lateral Replacement project. Orangeburg pipes, installed primarily in the mid-20th century, are prone to deterioration and failure. Replacing the pipes reduces the risk of sewage backups, overflows and ground contamination.

Another \$1.09 million will support the Wastewater Collection System Rehabilitation project, which will rehabilitate more than 54,000 linear feet of aging wastewater pipes in southeast Rockville. The work is intended to prevent sewage backups that can damage private property, threaten public health and pollute local waterways.

The remaining \$500,000 will fund a lead service line inventory investigation to identify more than 8,000

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Rockville Community Invited to Share Housing Experiences at Workshop

The City of Rockville will host an open-house workshop 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, at Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave.

The workshop is part of the city's comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment, which examines housing affordability, availability and type across the community. Housing affordability is a key priority for the Mayor and Council, and input gathered during the workshop will help shape future housing policy, programs and planning decisions.

The assessment focuses on identifying gaps affecting older adults, renters, people with

disabilities, families and residents with limited or moderate incomes. City staff will use the findings to develop solutions that make housing more accessible and affordable for all Rockville residents.

The project began in January with a housing analysis. A community survey was conducted in February. Following the March workshop, city staff will develop policy recommendations, with the assessment complete in April.

A summary of community feedback and findings is expected later this spring.

For more information visit rockvillemd.gov/housing.

Early Bird Earth Month Activities in Rockville

Earth Day is Wednesday, April 22, but Rockville and Montgomery County celebrate throughout spring with the following events:

Saturday, March 28: Earth Hour. 8:30-9:30 p.m.

Rockville will turn out the lights in observance of Earth Hour, an international effort in support of climate change action. Learn more and find ways to participate in Earth Hour every day at earthhour.org.

Green Permit Fee Waivers for Earth Month

To commemorate Earth Month, Rockville will waive permit fees for certain environmentally friendly home improvements, including solar photovoltaic panel installations, electric vehicle charging stations and energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, such as heat pumps. Applications must be submitted by Thursday, April 30 via the permitting system at mygovernmentonline.org.

Stream Cleanups

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

Thursday, April 16: Native Plants: Choosing, Finding and Planting with Purpose

Join the Climate Solutions Speaker Series at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 16 for a virtual webinar with Lisa Kuder from the Maryland native plants program at the University of Maryland Extension. Attendees will learn how to use the new "Maryland Native Plant Guide for the Piedmont Region" to select the right native plants for their property and explore

helpful resources, including certified native plant retailers.

Saturday, April 25: City Nature Challenge. 9-10 a.m.

Croydon Creek Nature Center.

Be part of a global effort to observe and document local wildlife during the City Nature Challenge. Join nature center staff on a guided walk through the



forest preserve, where naturalists will demonstrate using the iNaturalist app to record plants and animals, big and small. Ages 6 and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Register at rockvillemd.gov/registration for course #39958, beginning Tuesday, March 3 for residents and March 5 for nonresidents.

Saturday, April 25: Montgomery County GreenFest 2026. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Silver Spring.

The largest annual environmental festival in Montgomery County is organized by a coalition of public and nonprofit partners and offers the chance to celebrate, learn, start or continue the journey to improving the community and the environment. Learn more at montgomerycountygreenfest.org.

Sunday, April 26: Science Day. Noon-5 p.m. Montgomery College, Rockville Campus, 51 Mannakee St.

See the article on page 5. Learn more at rockvillesciencecenter.org/rockville-science-day.

Tuesday, April 28-Wednesday, April 29: Montgomery County Energy Summit, Silver Spring.

Connect with building owners, property managers, developers, energy contractors and sustainability professionals while exploring strategies that take building performance

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Spring Forward and Check Your Smoke Alarms

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

Daylight saving time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 8 — and is an ideal reminder for homeowners to check smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

Alarms and detectors are the best way to notify you and your family of a fire. State law requires that battery-operated smoke alarms be replaced every 10 years from the date of manufacture. Devices should also be tested at least once a month. State law also requires replacing older smoke alarms with new, sealed, long-life battery-powered smoke alarms.

Hardwired 120-volt electric smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years with new 120-volt smoke alarms with battery backup to ensure proper and timely operation in a fire.

Homeowners with hardwired smoke alarms should not replace their devices with battery-powered alarms.

Fire code-compliant smoke alarms can be purchased at most home improvement stores.

For more information, visit rockvillemd.gov/firesafety or email Carl Young, city fire marshal, at cyoung@rockvillemd.gov.

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MAYOR & COUNCIL
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Rockville Utilities

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

Revenue from the funds pays for repairs and replacement of aging water and sewer pipes and other infrastructure vital to providing these services, as well as required payments to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission related to a regional wastewater treatment plant. The city does not control the amount paid for regional wastewater treatment.

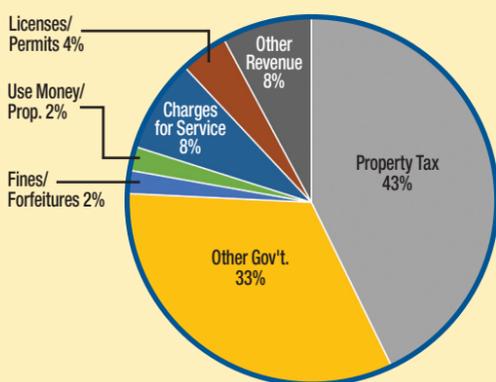
The city's rate structure is based on property classification, namely single family, multifamily and nonresidential, to distribute as equitably as possible the cost of providing water and sewer service. A multiyear rate schedule was previously adopted by the Mayor and Council following a formal cost-of-service study performed in Fiscal Year 2024.

A table showing water and sewer usage charges for each classification will be included in the proposed budget when it is posted Friday, March 6 at rockvillemd.gov/budget.

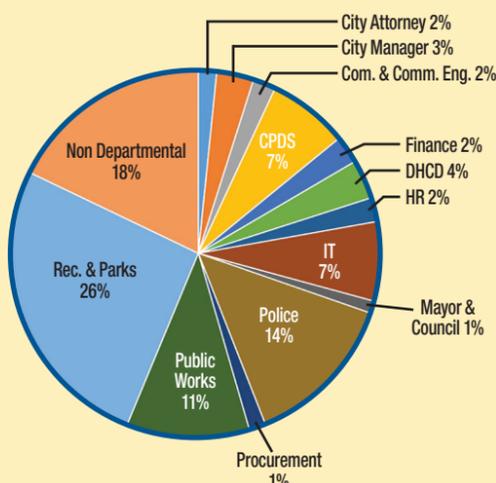
The budget includes a proposed \$20 annual increase in the refuse and recycling rate, to \$585 per household. The stormwater management rate would increase by \$10, to \$169, for the year.

Understanding the General Fund

Proposed FY27 General Fund Revenues



Proposed FY27 General Fund Expenditures



Budget Watch: Fiscal Year 2027

Rockville's Mayor and Council begin budget deliberations this month with public hearings and work sessions focused on a Fiscal Year 2027 budget that prioritizes the Mayor and Council's focus areas of public safety, economic development and housing.

The proposed budget will be available for review beginning Friday, March 6 at rockvillemd.gov/budget. City Manager Jeff Mihelich is scheduled to present the Mayor and Council with a FY 2027 budget proposal on Monday, March 9.

For information about how to testify at upcoming budget hearings or view the presentation on cable and online, see the FY27 budget calendar in the column to the right.

The budget, which covers the fiscal year that begins July 1, is scheduled for adoption by the Mayor and Council on Monday, May 4.

The proposed FY27 operating budget of \$187.1 million is a 6.6% increase over the FY 2026 adopted budget. The general fund budget is \$125.5 million, a 7.2% increase.

The city's current real property tax rate of \$0.292



Rockville's Fiscal Year 2027 budget will be presented with the city's first digital-only budget book, featuring interactive charts, graphs and a redesigned format. Find it at rockvillemd.gov/budget.

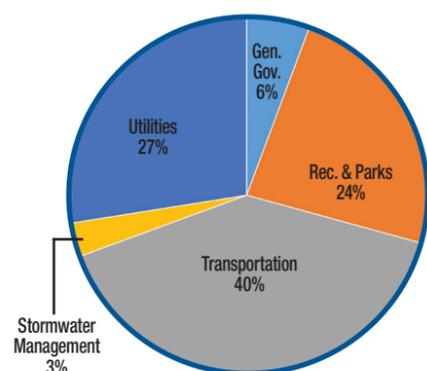
per \$100 of assessed valuation would remain the same for FY27. All residential and commercial property owners pay this tax. Rockville has not increased its property tax rate since 1995.

The proposed budget prioritizes the city's continued commitment to capital investments, including several large capital projects. The proposed FY 2027-FY 2031 Capital Improvements Program supports projects across five program areas during the fiscal year and introduces seven new projects.

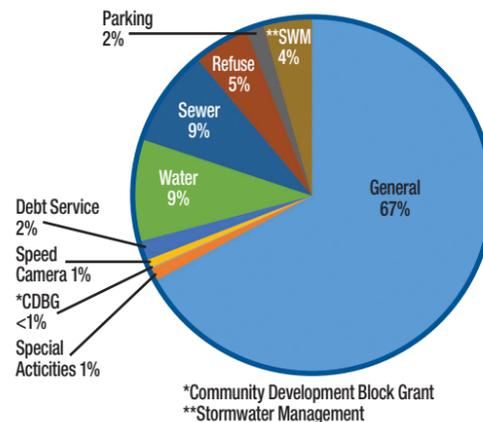
The proposal also funds Mayor and Council focus areas and includes about

\$11 million in new funding for the city's Vision Zero Action Plan and Pedestrian Master Plan; three new full-time positions in the Rockville City Police Department to provide additional school coverage and deploy new specialized units; one new full-time codes inspector to support enhanced rental licensing inspections; \$500,000 for the city's housing opportunities fund; more than \$1 million to fund the design of the King Farm Farmstead; \$1.8 million in community services and enrichment grants; and \$1.6 million for Rockville Economic Development, Inc.

New CIP Appropriations by Program Area



Total Operating Budget by Fund



Proposed FY 2027-2031 Capital Improvements Program

The FY 2027-FY 2031 Capital Improvements Program includes new appropriations of \$35.2 million, which supports 30 capital projects, not including those with carryover funding.

The program includes funding for the construction of Talbott Street Park; repairs to the retaining walls and paths at Glenview Mansion; rehabilitation and replacement of several pedestrian bridges; renovations to the RedGate Park and Arboretum; continued efforts on the Maryland and Dawson avenues extensions of Town Center; and ongoing maintenance and improvements of the city's paths, roadways, sidewalks, stormwater facilities, and water and sewer infrastructure.

The CIP also includes seven new capital projects focused on building energy-efficiency improvements, the design of the King Farm Farmstead in alignment with the adopted master plan, and the preservation and improvement of city facilities and pedestrian safety. New projects in the proposed FY27 budget are displayed with a project code of "NEW" for clarity and transparency.

Find more information on the proposed FY27 budget at rockvillemd.gov/budget.

FY27 BUDGET CALENDAR

- Friday, March 6:** Proposed FY 2027 budget and Capital Improvements Program posted to rockvillemd.gov/budget.
- Monday, March 9:** Introduction and city manager's presentation of the FY27 budget and CIP; budget work session and public hearing.
- Monday, March 23:** Public hearing and work session.
- Monday, April 13:** Work session and close of community survey and budget public record.
- Monday, May 4:** Adoption of the FY27 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program.
- Wednesday, July 1:** FY27 begins.

Note: Budget calendar dates are subject to change.

For information about how to testify at hearings, find agendas, posted the week before each date at rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter.

Meetings are broadcast on channel 11 on county cable, livestreamed at rockvillemd.gov/rockville11, and available a day after each meeting at rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand.

To review the proposed budget, visit rockvillemd.gov/budget.



Offer Your Ideas

- Using the budget survey, in English, simplified Chinese and Spanish at rockvillemd.gov/budget.
- At public hearings during Mayor and Council meetings on Mondays, March 9 and 23.



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

City Will Not Move Forward with Permanent Parking Lanes on Redland Boulevard

Significant eastbound traffic congestion during peak afternoon hours has led Rockville to rule out permanent parking lanes on Redland Boulevard, following a fall 2025 demonstration project to improve safety and reduce speeding.

The demonstration — designed to test ways to improve safety along the road — ran Sept. 21 through Oct. 17 and temporarily repurposed one travel lane in each direction between Gaither Road and Elmcroft Boulevard into full-time parking lanes. While the project succeeded in lowering vehicle speeds, it produced congestion in the eastbound direction during the afternoon peak that the city determined too significant to support permanent implementation.

Data collected during the six-week period showed an overall reduction in speeding, including a 98% drop in speed camera citations compared with the 2025 monthly average. About 85% of drivers traveled at or below the posted speed

limit. No significant changes were observed in traffic volume or crashes.

However, the demonstration additionally showed low use of the on-street parking spaces. While westbound traffic and off-peak periods were not substantially affected, most public feedback opposed making the changes permanent.

Although Rockville will not advance the lane repurposing project on Redland Boulevard, the city will continue to evaluate other safety improvements. Potential next steps include studying a curb extension at Elmcroft Boulevard in the eastbound direction, exploring additional pedestrian safety treatments at other intersections and working with the Rockville City Police Department to assess further options to reduce speed along the corridor.

Find out more about how the City of Rockville is working to make its streets and roads safer at rockvillemd.gov/visionzero.

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

March 5 Deadline for 'If I Were Mayor ...' Essay Contest

Rockville fourth graders have until Thursday, March 5 to enter 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.

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.

For more information, including contest rules and forms for submitting entries online, visit mdmunicipal.org/mayors-essay-contest.

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

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.

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



TUNE IN TO HEAR FROM YOUR MAYOR AND COUNCIL ... A new episode of "Conversations with the Mayor and Council" will debut later this month, featuring Councilmember Marissa Valeri discussing how Rockville protects the environment, native plant benefits and environmentally friendly landscaping.

The show 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.

Tune into Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, or watch at youtube.com/cityofrockville.

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

Meetings Schedule: Monday, March 2, beginning at 5:30 p.m., and March 9 and 23, at 6:30 p.m. Visit rockvillemd.gov/agenda center for details. A drop-in session from 5:15-6:15 p.m. with Mayor Monique Ashton and Councilmember Kate Fulton will precede the March 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.

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

Vacancies

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

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

R 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/mayorcouncil. Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting.

Lights Out for Earth Hour and Climate Change

Rockville will turn out the lights in observance of Earth Hour, a global movement calling for action on climate change and protecting nature.

Earth Hour encourages residents and businesses to switch off all non-essential lights from 8:30-9:30 p.m. Saturday, March 28 as a visible show of support for the planet. The city will take part by turning off non-essential lighting at its Gude maintenance facility.

Earth Hour also invites the community to use this time to take positive action, such as unplugging electronics, taking a walk outdoors, stargazing or committing to environmental actions that can continue beyond the hour.

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

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

Rockville to Waive Fees for Select Home Improvement Permits During April

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

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

Applications must be submitted by Thursday, April 30 at mygovernmentonline.org and must be accepted by city staff by 5 p.m. Friday, May 1.

For more details, visit rockvillemd.gov/services/apply-for-a-building-or-trade-permit or email questions to permits@rockvillemd.gov.

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

Spring Into Action by Letting Gardens Rest

As spring approaches, community members can help support pollinators by letting gardens rest a little longer.

Don't clean up too soon. Leave leaves and plant material in place and delay cutting back perennials until warmer weather. Many native bees, insects and birds rely on these shelters through late winter.

Add intentional garden features. Use this time to plan and add design touches like birdbaths, benches, borders, signs or paths. These elements keep a garden looking intentional while supporting wildlife.

Plan native plantings and get rebates. Late winter is a great time to design native gardens. Rockville's RainScapes program offers rebates up to \$5,000 for residents and nonprofits for native landscapes, trees, rain gardens, green roofs and more. Visit rockvillemd.gov/rainscapes to apply.

Rockville is a Certified Community Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation.

Learn more about how to turn a yard, school or common area into a Certified Wildlife Habitat at rockvillemd.gov/backyardhabitats.

Connect with us on Social Media.



Native Plants: Choosing, Finding and Planting with Purpose



Join the Climate Solutions Speaker Series, 7 p.m. Thursday, April 16, for a virtual webinar featuring Lisa Kuder from the Maryland Native Plants Program at the University of Maryland Extension.

Attendees will learn how to use the new Maryland Native Plant Guide for the Piedmont Region to select the right native plants for their property and explore helpful resources.

The webinar will also highlight resources for finding certified native plant nurseries and retailers, and explore how native

plants are becoming more widely available as garden centers, nurseries and suppliers respond to growing demand.

The Maryland Native Plants Program is a partnership between the University of Maryland Extension, the Maryland departments of agriculture and natural resources, and the Maryland Native Plant Society. The mission is to promote the sale and use of plants native to Maryland, and to increase awareness about the importance and benefits of native plants.

Register online at bit.ly/rkclimate.

Green Leadership Training for Faith Communities

Rockville congregations are invited to join a free, three-part Faithful Green Leaders Training with Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake. This online training is ideal for faith-based teams ready to strengthen their environmental ministry and take meaningful action.

Participants will learn how to build or grow a Green Team, engage their congregation through environmental education, create a practical action plan, and communicate their efforts effectively. Congregations

that complete all three sessions also receive a year of personalized mentorship, support in pursuing grants and may qualify for a complimentary site visit.

Trainings will take place online from 7-8:30 p.m. on Thursdays, March 12, 19 and 26.

Register by March 5 (space is limited) at interfaithchesapeake.org/march_2026_fglt.

Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake is a grant partner with the City of Rockville through the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

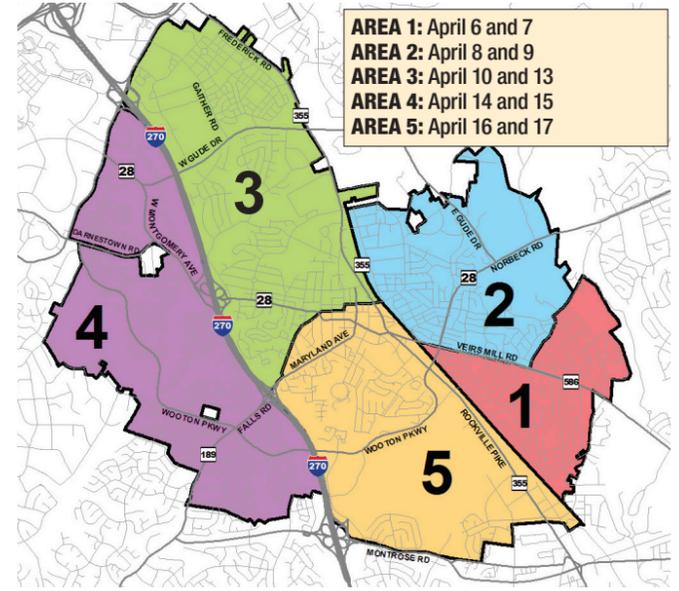
Faithful Green Leaders Training

Build, Inspire, and Transform Your Community

SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY NEWS!

rockvillemd.gov/newsletters

Spring Rake! Leaf Collection Arrives in April



See interactive map at rockvillemd.gov/leafcollection.

Rockville will vacuum leaves from neighborhood curbs from Monday, April 6-Friday, April 17 in five collection areas citywide.

City residents can enter their addresses on the interactive map at rockvillemd.gov/leafcollection to find their collection days. Crews make one pass only during spring collection.

How to Prepare

- Rake leaves next to, but not into, roadways, gutters or bike lanes, and keep piles away from parked vehicles.
- Leaves must be raked out by 6 a.m. on the first day of the collection period, but no earlier than one week before collection to prevent grass damage or fire hazards.
- Remove sticks and debris from leaf piles.

- Avoid parking near leaf piles and do not block access for collection crews.

After the collection period ends, leaves can be placed in biodegradable paper lawn bags or 32-gallon trash cans (no plastic bags) and set out on regular refuse and recycling collection days. Never dump leaves or yard waste in parks, wooded areas, streams or storm drains.

Leaves Help Pollinators

Leave some leaves in garden beds, under trees or in designated patches for wildlife. Leaf litter provides shelter for beneficial insects such as butterflies, moths, native bees and fireflies. These insects overwinter in leaves and emerge in spring to support pollinators and a healthy local ecosystem.

Rockville Speaker Series to Explore the City's Baseball History

Baseball's long and sometimes surprising connections to Rockville will be the focus of an upcoming Rockville speaker series program at Glenview Mansion.

The Glenview Mansion-Peerless Rockville speaker series will present "The History of Baseball in Rockville," from 7-8 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Drive.

Historian Bill Hickman will trace Rockville's links to both Major League Baseball and the Negro Leagues. The program will explore players and managers associated with the city, their careers on the field and, in some cases, connections to the Rockville

community.

The presentation will also address a range of baseball-related questions tied to local history, including why former Washington Nationals pitcher Walter Johnson is buried in Rockville, which Rockville ballplayer was investigated by the Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board, and how the Red Brick Courthouse connects to the sport.

Light refreshments will be served. The program is free and open to the public. Registration is encouraged as seats go fast.

Visit peerlessrockville.org to sign up or register with course #36328 at rockvillemd.gov/registration.

ROCKVILLE HISTORIC PROPERTY TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE

**Restoring or repairing the outside of your historic home?
Preserving the exterior of a historic structure?**

You could be eligible for a property tax credit if your property is:

- Designated by the City of Rockville as historic.
- You spent at least \$1,000 on exterior maintenance between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025.

Property tax reductions are up to 25% of approved expenses. Eligible applications are for work completed in calendar year 2025.

**For more information, contact 240-314-8236 or
history@rockvillemd.gov.**

**Visit rockvillemd.gov/mgoconnect to submit applications
by Wednesday, April 1.**

Rockville Science Day Marks 35 Years of Discovery and Innovation

The Rockville Science Center will hold its 35th Annual Rockville Science Day on Sunday, April 26. The event is at Montgomery College's Rockville Campus, 51 Mannakee St., from noon-5 p.m. Opening ceremonies begin at 1 p.m. outside of the Physical Education Center building.

What began as a community tradition more than three decades ago has grown into Montgomery County's largest STEM festival, drawing more than 4,000 visitors and 120 exhibitors from across the region each year.

Rockville Science Day offers families and science enthusiasts of all ages the chance to dive into interactive exhibits spanning robotics, environmental science, medicine, chemistry and beyond. Attendees can build and launch rockets, peer through telescopes, meet live reptiles, explore electric vehicles, tackle coding challenges and conduct chemistry experiments. Other exhibits include stream science, archaeology mini-digs, 3D printing and math games.

The event is free to attend; parking is free. Food will be available for purchase. The festival takes place rain or shine.

Visit rockvillesciencecenter.org/rockvillescience-day for more information, including exhibitor registration, sponsorship and volunteering. Student Service Learning hours are available for students 16 and older who help with exhibits on Sunday and/or with setup on Saturday.

Can't Wait for Science Day?

The Rockville Science Center hosts programs for all ages. The Rockville Makerspace & Tool Library, operated by RSC at 33-F Maryland Ave., offers workshops, open hours and use of specialized equipment such as 3D printers, laser engravers and a CNC (computer numerical control) machine for members. RSC also hosts after-school and homeschool classes, winter and spring break programs, and summer camps. Learn more about these and other upcoming events at rockvillesciencecenter.org.

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

County Provides Free Tax Preparation Through VITA Program for 2026 Tax Season

Montgomery County is offering free, in-person and virtual federal and state tax preparation sessions throughout tax season for low- to moderate-income families that earned \$69,000 or less in 2025.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, which is run by the Montgomery County Community Action

Agency, provides IRS-certified volunteers from nonprofit and public agencies who help maximize tax refunds and credits, including the Earned Income Tax Credit, and e-file federal and state tax forms.

In-person appointments are available through Thursday, April 9

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Zoning Ordinance Rewrite Nears Transition to Mayor and Council Review

Rockville's zoning ordinance rewrite and comprehensive map amendment moved into the final stages of Planning Commission review in February, following a series of public hearings and work sessions on the proposed zoning ordinance and zoning map.

The Planning Commission began the adoption phase in January, holding multiple public hearings and work sessions on the staff draft zoning ordinance and draft zoning map. At its first adoption work session and public hearing on Jan. 14, commissioners examined historic preservation regulations, parking requirements, the pedestrian and bicycle facilities division, amenity space, and proposed rezonings tied to the comprehensive map amendment for Planning Area 10, Montrose and North Farm, and Planning Area 12, Tower Oaks.

The commission continued its review on Jan. 28, addressing fencing standards, including deer mesh; selected use standards; nonconformities; and pending state legislation that could affect local zoning provisions.

Citing the breadth and complexity of the issues under review, the Planning Commission scheduled additional meetings to allow for further discussion and public input. A third adoption work session and public hearing was held Feb. 4, focusing on ordinance language, purpose statements, development review processes, follow-up items from the Jan. 14 meeting, rezonings in Planning

Areas 10 and 12, historic preservation, and amenity space.

The commission held a fourth adoption work session and public hearing on Feb. 11. Topics included selected zoning districts, zoning map amendments, certain development standards, transitional provisions, signage and additional technical items.

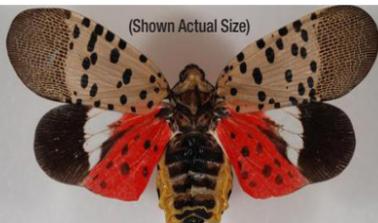
The Planning Commission was scheduled to consider transmitting its recommendation on the zoning ordinance and zoning map to the Mayor and Council at its Feb. 25 meeting, after press time for "Rockville Reports." This marks the anticipated conclusion of the commission's role in the adoption process.

Planning Commission meetings are held in the Mayor and Council chamber at City Hall and are broadcast live on Rockville 11. Brief books for each meeting, including staff reports and supporting materials, are posted at rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter.

With the Planning Commission's review nearing completion, the Mayor and Council are expected to begin their consideration of the proposed zoning ordinance and zoning map this spring. A briefing on the Planning Commission's recommendation is scheduled for Monday, March 23, followed by work sessions and public hearings before final adoption is considered.

More information about the project and next steps is available at engage.rockville.com/zoningrewrite.

IDENTIFY & STOP the Spotted Lanternfly



(Shown Actual Size)

1. Search on tree trunks, stone surfaces, vehicles and any smooth surface for egg masses. Masses will have a gray putty-like covering on them.
2. Scrape masses from surfaces. Be sure to remove entire egg mass and wax coating. (Found from September-June.)
3. Dispose of by double bagging.

Approximately 2-inch wing span by 1-inch body.

Spotted Lanternfly - Invasive Insect
Stop. Scrape. Squash.


EGG MASS
SEPT.-JUNE


EARLY NYMPH
APRIL-JULY


LATE NYMPH
JULY-SEPT.


ADULT
JULY-DEC.

Report Sightings
Call 240-314-8700



City of Rockville
Rise Together

Eyes Up Rockville: Stay Alert Traveling City Streets

Traveling in winter, with snow and ice, can be treacherous for pedestrians and motorists alike.

Keeping the community safe on city streets is a high priority for the Mayor and Council and the City of Rockville. The city has implemented a Vision Zero initiative that sets the goal of eliminating traffic-related deaths and serious injuries on Rockville roads by 2030 through improved road design, traffic law enforcement and education.

In 2020, the Mayor and Council approved the Vision Zero Action Plan, which lays out 30 action items to help the city reach this goal.

When driving, watch out for pedestrians and bicyclists, and follow these tips for maximum safety:

- People bicycling often travel faster than expected. Rather than passing quickly, it's safer to be patient and allow them to proceed or wait until there is adequate space to pass safely.
- When passing, move to the left as soon as possible and allow at least 3 feet of space between the vehicle and the person bicycling.
- Make complete stops at stop signs. Stop before the crosswalk. Do not inch forward.
- Before entering a right-turn lane, check for and yield to bicyclists traveling in a bike lane. Do not block the bike lane.
- When making a right turn, check blind spots. This helps prevent right-hook crashes.
- When parking on the street, check for people bicycling by opening the vehicle door with the right hand, which encourages a shoulder check before exiting.
- People may be traveling in dark or rainy conditions. Extra caution is especially important when streetlights are out or unavailable.
- Avoid using a horn near people walking, rolling or bicycling. Horns are much louder outside a vehicle and may startle people into falling or reacting unpredictably.
- Always use turn signals, especially when making right turns.

Learn more about Rockville's Vision Zero Action Plan at rockvillemd.gov/visionzero.

International Night 2026

6 p.m. Friday, April 17

F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre
603 Edmonston Drive

Celebrate the diversity, traditions and nationalities of Rockville's vibrant community at this exciting cultural performance showcase!!

#worldrockville

- Explore the many cultures that make up the community.
- Experience live cultural performances and traditional clothing displays
- Engage with people from different countries and discover their customs.

Free event with limited seating.



► SPEAK UP ◀

Report potential fraud, waste and abuse related to City of Rockville government services and employees.

Call 1-866-921-6714

Email rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca. Visit integritycounts.ca/org/rockvillemd. For more information, visit rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse.



Rockville Swim and Fitness Center to Host Summer Hiring Event

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will host a walk-in hiring event for part-time summer positions from 4-7 p.m. Monday, March 23. The center is seeking lifeguards, swim instructors and front desk staff.

Those interested in summer employment at the center can attend at any time during the event. No appointment is required. This will be a one-stop opportunity for prospective employees to learn about available positions, apply on site and begin the interview process.

Center management will be available to meet with applicants, discuss job interests and help guide them through the application process. Attendees can complete an employment application, take part in a skills evaluation for their preferred position and schedule a return visit for a verbal interview.

Certifications and prior work experience are not required to attend the event, and training opportunities are available for prospective employees.

Applicants should bring a swimsuit, towel and their summer availability. Applications can be submitted in advance at rockvillemd.gov/careers. Applying ahead of time is not required.

The hiring event will be held at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, 355 Martins Lane, using the indoor entrance. For more information, call 240-314-8750 or visit rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter.

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.

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

Coaches are needed for teams in spring youth sports leagues. Those interested in taking part, can contact sports@rockvillemd.gov.

Rockville will also hold a Youth Sports Coaches Summit from 6-8:30 p.m. Friday, March 13, at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive.

Representatives from Coach Beyond Maryland and Project Play from the Aspen Institute will teach participants best practices for fostering a positive team environment and give insights from groundbreaking research on youth sports development. Free food will be provided.

Register at rockvillemd.gov/registration with course #40008. For ages 18 and older.

The Mansion is Ready for its Close-Up



Rockville History a Century Strong

The iconic and historic Glenview Mansion marks a significant milestone this year with a century standing at the heart of the city. In March, the mansion opens its doors to photographers looking for that perfect shot.

Lens and Legacy will open the property for one day only, from 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Sunday, March 1, to allow professional photographers to take photos inside the mansion and cottage for free.

For one day only, professional photographers may take photos inside Glenview Mansion and Cottage for free.

Visit cityofrockville.formstack.com/forms/lensandlegacy to review program policies and register for a timeslot. Call 240-314-8692 or email civiccenterprograms@rockvillemd.gov for more information.

To see other events scheduled throughout the year, visit rockvillemd.gov/glenview100.

Supplements, Screenings and Road Safety: This Month at the Senior Center

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

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

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

Why the Proven Benefits of Supplements Are So Important Today

Learn how proper nutrition and a healthy lifestyle can help prevent many diseases, including heart disease, cancer and Type 2 diabetes. This session explains how supplements support long-term health by providing essential nutrients that help cells function at their best. Presented by Gary Mendelson, a nutritionist and audiologist, and Herbert Coxa from the Mendelson Group.

Register with course #38451. 1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, March 5. Free.

ARP Driver's Safety Program

Refresh driving skills, learn safe strategies and review rules of the road. The course covers age-related physical changes and how to adjust driving habits. Some Maryland insurers may offer premium discounts for completion. Includes four hours of instruction and a lunch break. Arrive 15 minutes early for registration. Cash or check only.

Register with course #38446. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday, March 11. \$20 for AARP members; \$25 for nonmembers.

Better Breather's Club
Educational program focused on respiratory issues and practical tips for maintaining good health. Walk-ins welcome.

1:30-2:30 p.m. Thursday, March 19. Free.

Unlocking Thyroid Health

Learn how the thyroid affects energy, mood, weight and overall health. This session covers common thyroid conditions, diagnosis, treatment options and simple tips to support thyroid health. Includes a Q&A session with a Johns Hopkins medical expert.

Register with course #38449. 1-2 p.m. Thursday, March 26. Free. Online.

Senior Center to Host Mobile Market

The Mobile Market returns from 2-4 p.m. Thursday, March 26, to the back parking lot of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive.

The Capital Area Food Bank Mobile Market provides fresh produce to local communities in need, free of charge. Intended to support members of the community at risk of hunger, there are no income requirements or other qualifications — food is provided to anyone who attends a Mobile Market distribution.

Learn more at capitalareafoodbank.org/what-we-do/direct-food-distribution-programs/mobile-markets.

Windmills, Swans and Marches, This Month at the Civic Center

From comic opera to classical ballet and rousing symphonic marches, March brings a wide-ranging slate of performances to the Rockville Civic Center, with windmills tilting, swans gliding and music moving audiences from laughter to lyricism.

Victorian Lyric Opera Company Presents "The Elixir of Love"

8 p.m. 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. The Friday, March 6 performance will include American Sign Language interpretation.

Tickets cost \$30; \$28 for seniors 65 and older; and \$26 for students. For tickets, visit fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/Elixir.

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. For tickets, visit fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/Quixote.

Grand Kyiv Ballet Presents "Swan Lake"

7 p.m. Thursday, March 19.

A ballet masterpiece and timeless tale of love and magic, brought to life by the finest dancers of the Grand Kyiv Ballet, from the Ukraine, Italy, Spain, U.S. and Japan. Renowned for its exquisite choreography, rich visual design and Tchaikovsky's unforgettable score, the ballet explores timeless themes of love, sacrifice and redemption.

Tickets cost \$44. For tickets, visit fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/SwanLake.

Rockville Concert Band Presents "March On!"

3 p.m. Sunday, March 22.

The Rockville Concert Band, directed by Christine Higley, will celebrate music, movement and momentum with "John Williams: The Symphonic Marches" by John Williams, "La Fiera Asturiana" by Michele Fernández and "Stars and Stripes" by John Philip Sousa.

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

Visit rockvilleconcertband.org for more information.

Annual Glenview Mansion Wedding and Events Expo

1-4 p.m. Sunday, March 22.

A celebration of love, laughter and happily ever after, set in the beautiful, historic Glenview Mansion. The expo will feature more than 30 wedding and event vendors. Explore catering, cakes, photography, live musical entertainment, floral artistry, tenting services, expert event planning and more. No registration is required for this free event.



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

Don't forget to lock your vehicle doors.

March CALENDAR

FACILITIES LEGEND:

- CC** Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Rd., 240-314-8770.
- GM** Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8660.
- FSF** F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8690.
- LP** Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Ave., 240-314-8780.

- CH** Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., 240-314-5000.
- SR** Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Dr., 240-314-8800.
- SFC** Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, 355 Martins Lane, 240-314-8750.
- TF** Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Dr., 240-314-8840.
- TC** Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., 240-314-8830.

- V** Virtual Program/Offering
- H** Hybrid: Offering both Virtual and In Person
- f** Facebook Live Event

1 LENS AND LEGACY: GLENVIEW MANSION AND COTTAGE. See article on page 6. Free. 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. **GM**

1, 6, 7, 8 VICTORIA LYRIC OPERA COMPANY PRESENTS "THE ELIXIR OF LOVE" See article on page 6. **FSF**

4 MEMORY SCREENINGS A quick screening to assess memory and thinking skills to determine whether further evaluation is needed. Call 240-314-8810 to schedule. Free. 10:30 a.m. **SR**

5 WHY THE PROVEN BENEFITS OF SUPPLEMENTS ARE SO IMPORTANT TODAY See article on page 6. Register with course #38451. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

6 LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE Discover what continued-learning opportunities are available through Montgomery College, including courses in art, history, brain health and personal finance. Register with course #38541. Free. 10-11:30 a.m. **SR**

9 MISSION TO MARS Learn about the challenges of landing astronauts on Mars and plans for future space exploration. Presented by Space Center Houston. Register with course #39735. \$7 M/\$10 NM. 1-2 p.m. **V**

11 AARP DRIVER'S SAFETY PROGRAM See article on page 6. Register with course #38446. \$20 AARP members/\$25 nonmembers (cash or check only). 10 a.m.-3 p.m. **SR**

11 COZY CREATURES CRAFTS AND STORIES Enjoy stories and simple crafts inspired by animals and nature. Perfect for toddlers and caregivers. Register with course #38553. \$8 R/\$10 NR. 10-10:45 a.m. **CC**

12 THE GLENVIEW MANSION-PEERLESS ROCKVILLE SPEAKER SERIES: THE HISTORY OF BASEBALL IN ROCKVILLE See article on page 4. Register with course #36328. Free. 7-8 p.m. **GM**

13 YOUTH SPORTS COACHES SUMMIT See article on page 6. Free. 6-8:30 p.m. **SR**

14 LITTLE EXPLORERS: NATURE ADVENTURES FOR TODDLERS Introduce toddlers to nature and spark curiosity and exploration through guided exploration and activities. Register with course #38550. \$10 R/\$12 NR. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

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

16 A HOUSE DIVIDED: CIVIL WAR Explore how the Civil War and Reconstruction were depicted through painting, sculpture and photography in a presentation by the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Register with course #39736. \$7 R/\$10 NR. 1-2 p.m. **V**

18 COFFEE, QUESTIONS AND CONNECTIONS Enjoy coffee, breakfast treats and conversation while connecting with fellow senior center members. Free. 10-11 a.m. **SR**

19 BETTER BREATHERS CLUB See article on page 6. Walk-ins welcome. Free. 1:30-2:30 p.m. **SR**

19 GRAND KYIV BALLET PRESENTS "SWAN LAKE" See article on page 6. **FSF**

22 ANNUAL GLENVIEW MANSION WEDDING EXPO See ad on this page. 1-4 p.m. Free. **GM**

22 ROCKVILLE CONCERT BAND PRESENTS "MARCH ON!" See article on page 6. Free. 3 p.m. **FSF**

23 ROCKVILLE SWIM AND FITNESS CENTER HIRING EVENT See article on page 6. Free. 4-7 p.m. **SFC**

23 FROM BOOM TO DUST IN THE TEXAS PANHANDLE Using photos, videos and firsthand accounts from the Panhandle Plains, explore the causes of the Dust Bowl and the methods used to stop the severe dust storms that damaged American and Canadian prairie lands from 1930 to 1940. Presented by the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum. Register with course #39737. \$7 R/\$10 NR. 1-2 p.m. **V SR**

25 ILLUMINATION STATION TO SAVE ENERGY Swap old bulbs for energy-efficient LEDs and learn about utility assistance programs. 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave.

25 HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT OPEN HOUSE WORKSHOP See article on page 1. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave.

26 NATIVE POLLINATORS Learn about Maryland's native pollinators and assemble a bee house to take home. Register with course #39811. \$7 M/\$10 NM. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

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

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

VITA Program

continued from pg. 5

at sites throughout Montgomery County. Rockville locations include the Community Action Agency, 1401 Rockville Pike, Suite 320, with appointments available from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and noon-8 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Virtual appointments are available Fridays from 11 a.m.-5

p.m. by calling 240-777-1123 or visiting montgomerycountymd.gov/Cashback/schedule.html. TTY users can call Maryland Relay 711.

For more information, or to request accommodations, visit montgomerycountymd.gov/Cashback/schedule.html or email VITA@montgomerycountymd.gov.



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

Early Bird Earth Month

continued from pg. 1

beyond basic benchmarking. Learn more at mcenergysummit.org

Saturday, May 2: Native Plant Sale 9-11 a.m. Elwood Smith Community Center, 601 Harrington Road.

Saturday, May 16: Spring Festival and Kids to Parks Day. 10 a.m.-noon, Croydon Creek Nature Center.

Celebrate Kids to Parks Day with a fun-filled spring festival at Croydon Creek Nature Center. The whole family will enjoy nature games and crafts, woodland hikes, live animal meet-and-greets, sustainability exhibits, local vendors and more. This free, drop-in event will take place rain or shine.

Weed Warrior Workdays. Join Rockville Weed Warrior Leaders for non-native, invasive plant removal workdays. Student Service Learning hours are available. Space is limited. Find upcoming events and register at rockvillemd.gov/weedwarriors.

Environment and Sustainability News Email Newsletter

Sign up for seasonal email newsletter updates on environmental events, volunteer opportunities and climate action news. Visit rockvillemd.gov/newsletters and select "Environment and Sustainability."

Connect with us on Social Media.



Rockville Receives \$2.68 Million in Federal Funding

continued from pg. 1

water service lines with unknown materials. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lead and copper rule revisions require that all water service providers, including Rockville, prepare an inventory of materials used in water service line pipes on both public and private property.

As part of the project, Rockville is encouraging its customers with unknown service line materials to visit rockvillemd.gov/lcrr to complete a service line inventory survey for their home.

The funding will allow Rockville to advance critical infrastructure work while reducing the financial burden on the com-

munity and supporting the city's ongoing efforts to protect public health and maintain reliable water and sewer systems.



Sunday, March 22 • 1-4 p.m.

Make any event truly special and start planning in a beautiful setting. Meet local vendors and service providers, including caterers, cake designers, photographers and event planners, and explore live music options, floral designs, tenting solutions and more!



City of Rockville All are welcome. rockvillemd.gov/glenviewexpo • 240-314-8660
Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park • 603 Edmonston Drive

Veteran Speakers and Organizations Sought for Military Events

Community Groups Sought for Memorial Day Parade

Rockville is seeking community groups and organizations to take part in its annual Memorial Day parade, and veterans and active-duty service members to speak at the city's Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies.

Applications are now available for organizations interested in participating in the city's Memorial Day parade.

The 82nd annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade will take place from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, May 25, in Rockville Town Center. Interested groups should review parade rules and eligibility requirements before applying. Applications must be submitted by Friday, April 3. Details and applications are available at rockvillemd.gov/memoralday.

In addition, Rockville is seeking veterans and active-duty military members to serve as featured speakers at its Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies. Rockville and Montgomery County residents who currently serve or have retired from the United States military are eligible.

The Memorial Day ceremony will be held Monday, May 25. The Veterans Day ceremony will be held Wednesday, Nov. 11.

Volunteer speakers should be comfortable speaking in public and prepared to deliver a five- to seven-minute speech reflecting on their military experience, including what it means to serve and to honor those who have served.

For more information or to express interest in serving as a speaker, contact Cristina Willis at 240-314-8610 or cwillis@rockvillemd.gov.

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
rrpfi.org • 240-314-8867

Connect with us on Social Media.



Arts and Culture Leaders to Convene for Quarterly Exchange

As local arts and culture organizations navigate rising costs, shifting audiences and new expectations, Rockville will create space for nonprofit leaders to learn from one another and shape a collective response.

The first quarterly Rockville Arts and Culture Leaders' Exchange will be held from 1-3 p.m. Friday, March 27, at Adventure Theatre MTC, 837-D Rockville Pike. The exchange is intended as a co-learning opportunity for leaders of Rockville-based arts and culture nonprofits.

Programming for the meeting responds directly to input from the local arts and culture sector, which identified a need to share practical strategies for maintaining organizations, and to explore how collaboration can help address shared challenges in today's nonprofit environment.

The March meeting will feature a conversation with Sarah Chapin, managing director of Adventure Theatre MTC and ATMTC Academy, and Laura

Andruski, a board member of Rockville Little Theatre.

Chapin will discuss the creation of GRACE, the Greater Rockville Arts Collective, and its role in supporting local nonprofits, including providing access to space at nonprofit-friendly rental rates. Andruski will share how Rockville Little Theatre has developed partnerships with other local nonprofits to reduce overhead and how the organization uses shared networks to boost ticket sales.

The program will conclude with a discussion focused on identifying a collective call to action, and outlining how arts and culture leaders can work together in coming months.

No registration is required. The exchange is intended for Rockville arts and culture leaders at the helm of local arts and culture nonprofit organizations.

More information will be available on the city's calendar in the coming weeks at rockvillemd.gov/calendar.



CHILLED WEATHER NO MATCH FOR ROCKVILLE'S POLAR PLUNGE SPIRIT ... A team from the Rockville City Police Department braved the frigid waters of the Chesapeake Bay on Jan. 31 at the annual Polar Bear Plunge at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis.

The department's plungers were joined by Rockville Mayor Monique Ashton and Councilmember Adam Van Grack, all taking the icy dip to benefit Special Olympics Maryland. The team raised \$3,940 for the organization, which supports about 19,000 athletes and Unified Sports teammates of Special Olympics Maryland across the state.

The RCPD's annual Polar Bear Plunge effort is coordinated by Cpl. Ronnie Crowe, the department's community services officer.

Visit the Rockville City Police Department on Instagram and Facebook for photos and videos from this year's plunge.



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

Rockville Reports is the official publication of the City of Rockville, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. It is delivered to all homes and businesses within Rockville's city limits. Any individuals with disabilities who would like to receive the information in this publication in another form may contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at 240-314-8108; TTY 240-314-8137.

Emergency Financial Help Available for Rockville Residents in Crisis

Facing an eviction notice? Utilities about to be disconnected? Struggling to pay for essential medications? The Rockville Emergency Assistance Program provides temporary relief to eligible residents experiencing urgent hardships. The program also connects residents to additional resources including emergency food, clothing, financial counseling and employment assistance.

To qualify for REAP, applicants must have been City of Rockville residents for at least six months. Those seeking rent assistance must have a court-issued eviction notice. Applicants seeking utility assistance must have a current shutoff notice or had

their service disconnected.

Before applying to the city, residents must first apply for emergency assistance through Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. The county will then submit a referral to the city's Department of Housing and Community Development on behalf of eligible city residents. Once a referral is received, residents can schedule an appointment by calling 240-314-8300.

For complete program details, visit visit.rockvillemd.gov/reap. To support neighbors in need, donate at rockvillemd.gov/donate. All donated funds go directly to helping Rockville families.

Summer Jobs

Working in our summer camps is a fun and rewarding experience!

A variety of shifts are available between June 22 and Aug. 21.

- Activity leaders must be at least 16 years of age, enjoy being active and working with children.
- Camp directors must be at least 21 years of age, enjoy and have experience working with children and have experience in a childcare, camp or school setting.
- Paid training provided.



Visit rockvillemd.gov/careers or scan the QR code to apply today!

Need help paying for camps?



City residents who qualify for...

- FARMs (Free and Reduced Meals)
- Medical Assistance
- Rental Assistance
- Supplemental Security Income

...may be eligible to receive \$175 towards each camp week.

For more information, see page 30 of the camps guide at rockvillemd.gov/guide.

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

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Web and Digital Manager: Nick Canary
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