

Over the past year, the Rockville Commission on Aging (RCOA) welcomed a variety of guest speakers to expand commissioners' knowledge, strengthen community partnerships, and address issues affecting older adults.

- City of Gaithersburg Senior Advisory Committee: Shared perspectives on senior advocacy, community engagement, and initiatives supporting older adults.
- Maryland Department of Aging: Discussed statewide aging priorities, equitable access to services, social isolation and loneliness, funding for aging initiatives, and improved coordination among government agencies. Updates included the Senior Call Check program and resources available through Maryland Access Point.
- City of Rockville Community Planning and Development Services: Provided updates on the zoning ordinance rewrite, comprehensive map amendment, and comprehensive planning process, highlighting potential impacts on the community.
- Montgomery County Commission on Aging: Discussed data-driven advocacy, regional collaboration, and Fiscal Year 2027 priorities, including in-home respite services, funding for new villages, and fair compensation for direct service workers.
- Montgomery County Police Department: Detective Miranda presented on financial fraud targeting older adults, including romance scams, phone scams, and other emerging schemes. Commissioners received information on fraud prevention, reporting procedures, and resources for victims.

The RCOA continued correspondence with sister cities Pinneberg, Germany, and Yilan City, Taiwan, following the Mayor and Council's visit to Germany. Communications with city representatives and senior commission leaders provided opportunities to share information about the Commission's structure, role in local advocacy, and the Village Concept. These exchanges support continued international collaboration and the sharing of ideas to enhance services and connections for older adults.

Commissioner Krishna Kumar, author of *Loneliness in Later Life: Causes, Consequences, and a Path to Connection*, presented "10 Things You Should Know About Loneliness." The program increased awareness of the causes and consequences of loneliness and the

importance of meaningful social connections. A book signing followed the presentation. An additional program is planned for October 2026 at the Rockville Senior Center.

Commissioners' participation in local events and senior activities provides valuable opportunities to learn directly from older adults and families, better understand community needs, and identify emerging concerns. Their visible presence also raises awareness of the Commission's role as an advocate for Rockville's older adults, helping residents recognize that their voices are heard, and their concerns are represented.

