



THE COLLEGE PARK POST

Edition 66

December 2025

Light Up College Park This December

*Deck the City Holiday
Decorating Contest Opens
December 1*

College Park is getting ready to shine once again—our annual Deck the City Holiday Decorating Contest returns to celebrate bright lights, creative décor, and neighborhood holiday cheer. Residents are invited to take part in this fun community tradition by nominating their own home, a neighbor's home, or any festive display within the City. Nominations open at 6:00 a.m. on December 1 and will be accepted through December 15 at 11:59 p.m. All entries must include photos, and homes must be located within the City of College Park.

Once the nomination period closes, all eligible submissions will be shared on the City's Facebook page beginning December 16, allowing the community to view and vote for their favorites. Online voting will take place December 16-18, with winners determined by the total number of likes and reactions each photo receives. This year's contest will feature two forms of recognition: Online Voting Winners and a Mayor's Choice Award, which highlights an exceptional display selected by the Mayor.

Winners will be notified by email on or after December 19 and will receive a festive yard sign to display proudly throughout the holiday season. Proof of residency will be required for winning homes. Please note that contest rules and prizes may be adjusted if necessary.

Help us light up the season and showcase the creativity of our community! Submit a nomination beginning December 1 at www.collegeparkmd.gov/deckthecity.

Questions? Contact events@collegeparkmd.gov.





Longevity Ready Maryland

Maryland introduces a statewide plan to strengthen support for older adults

By the year 2030, one out of 4 Marylanders will be over the age of 60, a statistic that is mirrored across the nation. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that by 2034, the number of people over age 65 will outnumber those under age 18. The Census Bureau refers to this as the “Graying of America.” Government officials across the country are responding to this new reality by addressing the needs of senior citizens with a fresh new lens.

In Maryland, Governor Wes Moore signed Longevity Ready Maryland (LRM) on July 30th—a groundbreaking multisector plan for aging in our state. With federal cuts to vital programs like Social Security, Medicare, and SNAP, a strong strategic plan like LRM is essential and comes at a critical time.

Maryland Department of Aging Secretary Carmel Roques said that Longevity Ready Maryland is “designed to ensure that Marylanders can age with dignity, purpose and independence” by promoting collaboration between government agencies, philanthropic efforts and the private sector. “We must strengthen supports for people who are aging now and for people who are already older and their care givers,” she added.

The Longevity Ready Maryland roadmap has been under development for almost two years, following Moore’s executive order issued on Jan. 3, 2024, to create the initiative.

The roadmap outlines four overarching goals, each with

short-term and long-term policy suggestions to achieve those initiatives:

- Build inclusive communities that are friendly to senior residents and their needs,
- Strengthen the caregiver workforce,
- Invest in health programs so that older people can stay healthier longer,
- Create more affordable housing opportunities and promote financial planning so seniors can have stable housing option.

The vision at the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) is to build a state where every person can lead healthy, financially secure, purposeful, and socially connected lives. We will keep you informed as initiatives, programs and policies are developed under the LRM umbrella.

In the City of College Park, the Department of Youth, Family and Senior Services is addressing the needs of the senior population in the City. The Mayor and Council have appointed a Senior Advisory Committee, and the City has joined the AARP network of Age Friendly Communities. You can reach us by calling 240-487-3614, or emailing seniors@collegeparkmd.gov.

Brought to you by Age Friendly College Park, part of the AARP Age Friendly Communities network. The Age Friendly College Park initiative is sponsored by the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park, and coordinated by the Department of Youth, Family and Senior

Holiday Safety Tips & Reminders

How to report incidents and stay safe this season

In an emergency, always call 9-1-1. Prince George’s County Police also accepts reports of non-emergency incidents—such as fraud, traffic hazards, inside flooding, lost property, or vandalism—online or by phone at 301-352-1200.

TELL THE CITY: REPORT NON-EMERGENCY ISSUES

Report potential noise violations or other non-emergency concerns to the City through the 24/7 Hotline at 240-487-3588 or online at www.collegeparkmd.gov/tellus.

To stay safe, remain aware of your surroundings, avoid distractions such as phone use, and walk with confidence—especially at night. Travel with others when possible and stick to well-lit, well-traveled areas. Keep electronics out of sight, limit displays of cash or jewelry, and use ATMs in busy, public places. When shopping or running errands, park in well-lit locations, lock your car, and secure valuables. Avoid leaving vehicles idling, even briefly.

VACATION PREMISE CHECKS

If you will be away from home, the City offers a helpful service: a police drive-by check of your residence. This added layer of security is especially valuable during the holiday season when many homes are unoccupied. Student rentals may also be more vulnerable during breaks, so ensure your property is secured and consider using this service. Request a check under the Vacation

Premise Check Request tab at www.collegeparkmd.gov/living.

SCAM ALERT

Recently, there have been reports of individuals impersonating City employees in attempts to scam residents. Examples include people posing as curbside leaf collection staff and charging for services, or fake event planners posting online to collect fraudulent participation fees.

Only official City employees wear City-issued uniforms, operate marked City vehicles and equipment, carry City identification, and use @collegeparkmd.gov email addresses. If something seems suspicious or unverified, do not engage. Instead, contact the appropriate City department to confirm. Report suspicious behavior to Prince George’s County Police at 301-352-1200, and share any photos or vehicle information that may assist investigations. Report crimes or emergencies to 9-1-1, and notify the City of non-emergency concerns at www.collegeparkmd.gov/tellus or 240-487-3588.

With the holiday season approaching, stay alert to potential scams and theft. Avoid sharing personal information, and complete online marketplace transactions at the local police department’s designated safe space. Stay safe, College Park!



Holiday Recycling Tips



ALWAYS RECYCLE

Paper
Cardboard Boxes
Plain Wrapping Paper
Metal Cans
Plastic Bottles and Jugs
Glass Food and Beverage Containers



REUSE OR TRASH

Ribbons and Bows
Bubble Wrap
Tissue Paper
Foil/Glitter Wrapping Paper
Packing Peanuts
Padded Envelopes



CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

City of College Park Inauguration 2025

Swearing In of the 2025–2027 City Council

The City of College Park held its 2025 Inauguration Ceremony during the Council meeting on Tuesday, December 2, marking the end of the 2023–2025 term and the swearing in of the newly elected City Councilmembers for 2025–2027.

The program included an invocation by Pastor Robert Stephens, remarks from outgoing Councilmembers, and recognitions for Llatetra Brown Esters, Susan L. Whitney, and John Rigg before the previous Council adjourned.

The Honorable Mahasin El Amin administered the oath of office to Mayor Fazlul Kabir, who then swore in the new Council: Jacob Hernandez & Alan Hew (District 1), Kelly Jordan & Holly Simmons (District 2), Daniel Oates & Ray Ranker (District 3), and Maria Mackie & Denise Mitchell (District 4).

Mayor Kabir appointed Councilmember Maria Mackie as Mayor Pro Tem and expressed appreciation to Councilmember Denise Mitchell for her dedicated service in the role during the previous term.

Incoming Councilmembers Jordan, Simmons, and Oates offered brief remarks, followed by Mayor Kabir's address outlining priorities for the term, including the Duvall Field renovation, North College Park Community Center, Lakeland restorative justice work, stormwater improvements, Route 1 revitalization, and continued Purple Line progress.

The ceremony concluded with a benediction and a reception in the City Hall lobby.

Learn more at www.collegeparkmd.gov/mayorandcouncil.



Taste of College Park 2026

Explore the flavors of College Park: January 16–25

Taste of College Park returns this winter for a weeklong celebration of the city's diverse and vibrant food scene. From January 16–25, residents and visitors are encouraged to explore participating restaurants across College Park, each featuring special menus, pre-fixed dishes, and unique offerings created exclusively for the event.

Now in its second year, Taste of College Park continues to grow with support from College Park Life, highlighting the wide variety of dining experiences available throughout the city. It's a great opportunity to try new eateries, revisit favorites, and support the small businesses that contribute to College Park's energy and sense of community.

Whether you're sampling international cuisine, enjoying classic comfort foods, or discovering something new, Taste of College Park offers a fun and flavorful way to experience the best of our local restaurants. The event celebrates the diversity of flavors found across our community and encourages residents to explore the city in a new way. With offerings across multiple neighborhoods, it also showcases the creativity and hospitality of the chefs, owners, and teams who bring these restaurants to life. This year's lineup reflects the continued growth of College Park's dining scene and the enthusiasm of local businesses participating.

View participating restaurants and menus at CollegePark.life.



Winter Weather Information

City Guidance for Snow, Ice, and Cold Weather Conditions

As colder weather arrives, the City of College Park reminds residents of the procedures and services in place to respond to winter conditions, including water main breaks, winter weather alerts, and snow and ice removal operations. Public safety remains the City's highest priority during winter storms, and City crews work throughout the season to help ensure safe travel and timely communication.

WATER MAIN BREAKS

As temperatures drop, the risk of water main breaks increases due to shifting ground and freezing conditions. Prompt reporting helps repairs occur quickly. If you observe water bubbling from the roadway or suspect a break, contact WSSC Water at 301-206-4002 and provide the exact address or nearest location.

WINTER WEATHER ALERTS

When snow, ice, or a wintry mix is forecast, the City will post updates on the website and across all City social media platforms. Public Works crews are staffed around the clock during snow emergencies to maintain the City's 55 miles of roads, prioritizing emergency and main routes before moving into residential streets.

SNOW REMOVAL ACTIVITIES

Snow and ice removal are treated as emergency operations and take priority over other Public Works tasks. When activated by the City Manager or Director of Public Works, the City's snow plan may include pretreating designated streets with salt brine. Once snow begins to accumulate, plows and salt trucks are deployed along predetermined routes.

During a snow emergency:

- Equipment is dispatched in preparation for incoming precipitation.
- Salting operations typically begin at the onset of snowfall or icing.
- Plowing begins once snow or slush accumulates on roadways.
- One travel lane is cleared first, then expanded toward curb-to-curb as conditions allow.
- Crews clear designated sidewalks, bus stops, RRFB crosswalks, and Trolley Trail sections.
 - Multiple passes may occur during extended storms.

SNOW & ICE – RESIDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Residents can help snow operations run smoothly by moving vehicles off the street when possible, or parking close to the curb if off street parking is unavailable. Snow pushed toward driveway entrances is unavoidable; waiting until plowing is complete can reduce repeated shoveling. When clearing your driveway, place snow to the right side (facing the street) and never back into the roadway. After plows have passed, residents should clear sidewalks, storm drains, and fire hydrants in front of their homes.

Refuse and recycling should be placed out on your regular collection day, though pickup may occur later or be delayed by one day depending on conditions.

Be prepared for winter—visit www.collegeparkmd.gov/snow for more information about winter operations. For questions, contact Public Works at 240-487-3590 or publicworks@collegeparkmd.gov.

City Announcements & Events

More information: www.collegeparkmd.gov; Sign up for City newsletters at collegeparkmd.gov/cpconnect

CHRISTMAS DAY HOLIDAY CLOSURE

All City of College Park offices will be closed on Thursday, December 25, 2025 in observance of the Christmas Day holiday. All City offices will close at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24.

Monday and Tuesday collections will occur as regularly scheduled, but Thursday collections will take place on Friday, December 26. Special collections for this holiday week will occur on Saturday, December 27.

To schedule a special collection, please call 240-487-3590 or email publicworks@collegeparkmd.gov before placing items at the curb.

NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY CLOSURE

All City of College Park offices will be closed on Thursday, January 1, 2026 in observance of the New Year's Day holiday.

Monday and Tuesday collections will follow the normal schedule. Thursday collections will occur on Friday, January 2, and special collections will take place on Saturday, January 3 for this holiday week.

To schedule a special collection, please call 240-487-3590 or email publicworks@collegeparkmd.gov prior to setting items out.

EMPOWER MARYLAND PIGGYBACK GRANT

The City of College Park is offering a \$100 reimbursement to residents who complete a \$100 Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Assessment from a participating contractor. This assessment provides a full home energy evaluation and a customized report outlining ways to improve comfort and efficiency. The report may also qualify homeowners for additional rebates and tax credits worth up to \$15,000, making it an excellent opportunity to save money and reduce energy use.

To qualify, homes must be located within the City of College Park, and assessments must be completed between December 15, 2025 and June 30, 2026. Residents must submit an online application and a brief survey to receive reimbursement. Once verified,

the City will issue a \$100 check directly to eligible applicants.

Learn more and apply at www.collegeparkmd.gov/empowergrant.

TASTE OF COLLEGE PARK 2026

January 16-25 | Various Locations Throughout College Park

Taste of College Park returns this January for a weeklong celebration of the city's vibrant and diverse food scene. From January 16-25, local restaurants will feature special menus, pre-fixed dishes, and unique offerings that highlight the flavors of our community.

Now in its second year, Taste of College Park continues to bring residents together to explore new cuisines, revisit favorite spots, and support the many small businesses that help define College Park's dining landscape. With support from College Park Life, it's easier than ever to discover participating restaurants and plan your culinary tour.

Learn more and view restaurant menus at CollegePark.life.

HOLIDAY SAFETY UPDATES FOR RESIDENTS

Stay safe this holiday season by remaining aware of your surroundings, sticking to well-lit areas, and keeping valuables out of sight. When shopping, lock your car, avoid leaving vehicles idling, and park in busy, well-traveled locations.

Vacation Premise Checks: If you will be away, the City offers police drive-by checks of your home. Request a check at www.collegeparkmd.gov/living under "Vacation Premise Check Request."

Reporting Emergencies: Call 9-1-1 for emergencies. Non-emergency incidents—such as fraud, traffic hazards, or vandalism—may be reported to Prince George's County Police at 301-352-1200. Report City concerns anytime at 240-487-3588 or www.collegeparkmd.gov/tellus.

Scam Alert: There have been reports of individuals impersonating City employees. Official staff wear City-issued uniforms, operate marked vehicles, carry City ID, and use @collegeparkmd.gov emails.

If something seems suspicious, do not engage. Report activity to Prince George's County Police at 301-352-1200.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY CELEBRATION

Each January, the City of College Park joins communities nationwide in honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service—observed on the third Monday in January—encourages all Americans to uplift their neighbors and work together toward building more just and connected communities.

Throughout the month, the City will offer programs, exhibits, and service opportunities inspired by Dr. King's values of unity, compassion, and civic engagement.

Poster Exhibition | January 2-31

Visit City Hall throughout January to explore a special exhibition showcasing the life, leadership, and lasting impact of Dr. King. The display features a collection of educational posters available

for viewing on the first floor during regular business hours.

Youth Presentations | January 19

The City is supporting several engaging presentations for young learners, highlighting Dr. King's message of courage, equality, and service. Programs include live performances, interactive storytelling, and creative arts experiences to help students reflect on Dr. King's legacy.

Citywide Food Drive | January 2-31

Honor Dr. King's commitment to community care by contributing to the City's month-long canned food drive. A collection box will be available in the City Hall lobby (7401 Baltimore Avenue). Donations of non-perishable, non-expired canned or boxed food items will support the College Park Community Food Bank.

Day of Service Opportunities

More opportunities to volunteer and give back will be announced throughout the month. Visit www.collegeparkmd.gov/mlk for updates.

