



# Rochester Area Community Update

*The latest information for members of our local communities*

April 2024

## Act of racism in our community



Photo Credit: KTTCC

While the recent incident in Rochester demonstrates how much work we still have to do, we are heartened by the quick and clear response to racism in our community. Mayo Clinic is deeply rooted in Rochester, and we share with our neighbors and staff members a commitment to belonging, inclusivity and mutual respect. We stand in solidarity with those affected, particularly Black and brown staff, peers, and community members. Mayo is committed to working with community organizations,

including the Rochester Branch of the NAACP, Barber Shop & Social Services, and others to advance further change in our community. This is a time to deepen our commitment to the Mayo Clinic values of respect, integrity, compassion and healing. Together, we can create an environment – at Mayo Clinic and in the community – that denounces racism in all its forms and actively promotes diversity, equity and inclusion.

## Mayo Clinic Food Services raises awareness about food waste



Mayo Clinic Food Services is hosting events to raise awareness about food waste, a global concern with major environmental, economic and humanitarian consequences. One of those events is Waste Not Wag A Lot from April 15–29. Mayo Clinic Food Services will offer dog-friendly treats for purchase through its Waste Not Wag A Lot program, which uses food scraps to make safe treats for pets. The program is available at Mayo Clinic in Arizona,

Florida and Rochester, and Mayo Clinic Health System locations in Eau Claire and La Crosse.

For each large bag of treats purchased, Mayo Clinic Food Services will donate a bag of treats to a local humane society. In 2023, the "Waste Not Wag A Lot" program diverted 332 pounds of waste from landfills and donated 614 bags of dog treats to local humane societies.

[Learn more](#) about sustainability efforts and environmental stewardship at Mayo Clinic.

## Young Volunteer Program accepting applications through April 29



The Young Volunteer Program in Rochester is accepting applications from area high school students to provide weekly volunteer service from June through August. Volunteer opportunities are available in clinical and nonclinical areas.

"We are proud that our Young Volunteer Program allows students to learn, serve and grow through their

interactions with patients and staff at Mayo Clinic," says Erin Pittman, director of Volunteer Services.

### How to apply

High school students ages 14 to 18 can apply through Monday, April 29.

Applicants and their parents or guardians also must attend the Young Volunteer Orientation on May 2 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Siebens Building. The session will review the program structure and benefits, types of service opportunities, onboarding requirements and expectations.

Learn more about the [Mayo Clinic Young Volunteer Program](#).

## Gonda West pilot program



From April 15 through May 10, Mayo Clinic is running a pilot program that will extend the hours of the Gonda West entrance, bringing more life to the lobby and enhancing the evening experience. Door attendants will provide a welcoming presence and wayfinding help for patients whose care needs keep them in the building after 5 p.m.

During the pilot period, the Gonda West entrance will remain open until 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and until 8 p.m. on Friday.

Read more at [Community Relations Our Stories](#).

## Journey to Wellness: Discover your joy



During April, Journey to Wellness, a free self-guided healthy living program through Mayo Clinic Health System, explores discovering your joy. Whether you complete the program as an individual or bring the resources to your work site wellness program, its videos, blog posts and education will lead you down the path to “Discover Your Joy.”

[Sign up](#) for Journey to Wellness and get started today. Each month you will gain access to a new toolkit.

## Mayo Clinic seeks participants in a study on sleep and cardiovascular diseases



Mayo Clinic is seeking male and female participants, ages 18 and up, for a study on sleep and cardiovascular diseases among individuals of Somali ancestry. This study examines the societal and cultural factors and sleep disorders that contribute to the risk of cardiovascular diseases.

[Learn more](#) about eligibility and [contact](#) a member of the study team for more information.

## May Plummer building lighting schedule

May 1	Trauma Awareness Month	Red
May 2	Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month	Red, gold, blue and green
May 6	Nurses' Week	Blue
May 7	International Thalassanemia Day	Red
May 8	Ovarian cancer	Teal
May 10	Lupus awareness	Dark purple
May 12	Myalgic Encephalomyelitis awareness	Blue
May 15	Peace Officers' Memorial Day	Red, white and blue
May 22	EMS Week	Blue and white
May 27	Memorial Day	Red, white and blue
May 30	World Multiple Sclerosis Day	Orange

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