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## **Peerless Rockville Announces New Executive Director**

Rockville, MD—The Board of Directors of **Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation, Ltd.** recently appointed **Mary van Balgooy** the new **executive director** effective March 10.

“We are excited to welcome Mary as Peerless Rockville’s new executive director,” Board President Joan Zenzen said. “We went through a thorough search process to ensure we selected the best candidate. Van Balgooy’s extensive background in preservation and museums, her outstanding educational and fund raising accomplishments, combined with the fact that she already has relationships with the local community and is a resident of Rockville made her the ideal choice.”

With over 15 years of experience in historic preservation and museums, **Mary van Balgooy** assumes her new post after serving as the development director of Peerless Rockville. Previous positions include public programs manager at the Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum, a six-acre historic site in California; associate archivist at The Peter F. Drucker Archives; historic preservation officer for the Riverside County (CA) Regional Park and Open-Space District; historic site consultant at the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum (DC); and collections manager at the Supreme Court of the United States. Van Balgooy holds a B.A. in history from the University of California, Irvine and M.A. in U.S. history from Claremont Graduate University.

“Peerless Rockville has an outstanding reputation as a nonprofit preservation organization in Maryland. I look forward to serving the Rockville community by working hard to preserve places that matter to the community, engaging younger audiences in preservation, and making the collections more accessible to the public,” van Balgooy said.

Van Balgooy succeeds founder and executive director **Eileen McGuckian**. McGuckian announced last year that she would be retiring as executive director after 26 years. Under McGuckian’s leadership, Peerless Rockville developed from an all-volunteer grass-roots preservation organization to an award-winning, community-based organization with four staff members to preserve buildings, objects and information important to Rockville’s heritage.

**Peerless Rockville** is an award-winning nonprofit, community-based organization founded in 1974 to preserve buildings, objects and information important to Rockville’s heritage. Peerless Rockville advances its goals through education, example, advocacy, and community involvement. For **more information** on Peerless Rockville, please call **301-762-0096** or visit **www.peerlessrockville.org**.