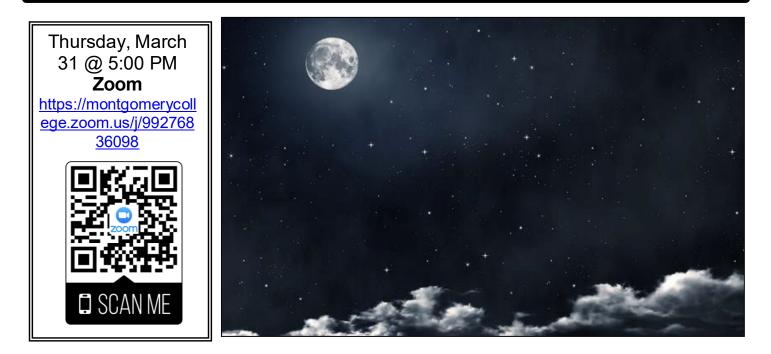
## **The Galaxy in Your Backyard**

Dr. Peter Vos\* Montgomery College, Germantown, MD



You probably don't think there is much to see in the night sky over Rockville. Maybe the Moon shows up every now and then. On rare occasions a planet hovers in the sky like an airplane that isn't moving. If that's your idea of the night sky, prepare to be amazed at the jaw-dropping celestial lightshow of planets, nebulae and galaxies hovering over your head. Here's the mind-blowing part: Using a few modest tools that are readily available, you can enjoy this spectacle yourself in your own neighborhood! We'll start with the Moon, and then head out far beyond anywhere you imagined you could go.

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\*Peter Vos is an adjunct professor of Biology on the Germantown campus. His enthusiasm for astronomy stretches back to his childhood. It's what got him interested in science in the first place. Another passion dating back to his youth is photography. Over the last couple of years, he has been busy merging these two passions and exploring astrophotography. He began hoping to observe planets that are millions of miles away. He was stunned to discover how easily he could see galaxies that are millions of light years away.

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