

Takoma Park city guide

Fall 2024

CLASSES • PROGRAMS • SERVICES • & MORE!

**Takoma
Park Election
Information
page 5**

**Información
sobre la Elección
Municipal de
Takoma Park
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takomaparkmd.gov

Holidays/Community Events

City of Takoma Park Holiday Closure Calendar

Labor Day

Monday, September 2

Veterans Day

Monday, November 11

Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 28

Friday, November 29

Christmas

Tuesday, December 24

Wednesday, December 25

For the waste pickup schedule on these holidays, see Public Works on page 35 or check the city website: takomaparkmd.gov

On the cover: Do the Monster Bash!

Children of Takoma Park unleash their creativity at the party of the year—the annual Monster Bash, happening on Saturday, October 26. The Bash features games, music, dancing, and treats—along with a costume contest and parade. Kids, start planning your costume now! City staff will judge costumes in categories such as most original, funniest, and scariest. The Monster Bash begins at 1 p.m. at the Takoma Park Middle School parking lot, followed by a parade to Maple Avenue. Look for more information in the October newsletter.

Photo by Eric Bond

Community Events

National Night Out

Tuesday, August 6, 6–9 p.m.
Piney Branch Elementary School
7510 Maple Ave.

The Takoma Park Police Department aims to heighten safety and crime prevention awareness with an annual community block party, featuring games, food, and music. Come out for twilight fun with your city police department—and learn more about how you can promote public safety.

Family Outdoor Movie Night

Saturday, September 7
(movie starts at dusk)
Ed Wilhelm Field
2 Darwin Ave. (behind Piney Branch Elementary School)

Pack your blanket and some snacks—it's time for another outdoor movie night! Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a movie under the stars with your family. The movie will be a family-friendly G- or PG-rated hit. Vote on the City website for your favorite. Due to limited parking, walking to the event is encouraged.

Takoma Park Folk Festival

Sunday, September 8, 10 a.m.–7 p.m.
Takoma Park Middle School and Lee Jordan Field

The Takoma Park Folk Festival celebrates the music and arts and the Takoma Park-Silver Spring community. The event, which is held rain or shine, presents six stages of music, a juried crafts show, international food, community nonprofit tables, and children's games and activities. More information at tpff.org.

Takoma ARTery Exhibition Opening Reception

Friday, September 20, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.

Twenty local artists from the Takoma ARTery

arts organization will share their work in a group exhibition in the gallery spaces at the Takoma Park Community Center. The artists' compelling work spans a wide variety of mediums and subject matter.

16th Annual Play Day

Saturday, September 21, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Takoma Park Middle School
7611 Piney Branch Rd.

It's time to put on your comfy shoes and play for a change! Let's Play America and the Takoma Park Recreation Department have teamed up to present this popular annual event, featuring tons of fun activities for the entire family, including Touch-a-Truck. To see a full listing of activities and performances, visit letsplayamerica.org. All ages welcome.

Takoma Park Street Festival

Sunday, October 6, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Old Takoma on Carroll Avenue (Maryland) and Carroll Street (D.C.)

The popular Takoma Park Street Festival returns for its 43rd year of music, vendors, food, and fun in Takoma Park. Festivalgoers will enjoy the day exploring over 165 vendors booths, live music from 18 local bands, food trucks, and more. Takoma's unique shops, restaurants, and cafes are all open and welcoming visitors. More information at mainstreettakoma.org.

D.C. Labor Chorus

Friday October 18, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.

The D.C. Labor Chorus will lead a sing-along of favorite civil rights, peace, and justice songs. The ensemble has performed at concerts, rallies, demonstrations, and picket lines across the D.C. area.

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TAKOMAPARK ALERT

WEATHER • EMERGENCY INFO • TRAFFIC

www.takomaparkmd.gov/alert

The City of Takoma Park has an alert system that will deliver important emergency alerts, notifications and updates to you by whichever methods you choose. We encourage all residents to sign up. [Learn more at takomaparkmd.gov/alert](http://takomaparkmd.gov/alert).

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ADA



The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings and programs. For auxiliary aids or services at a City of Takoma Park event, contact Jessie Carpenter, city clerk, at jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267 or Maryland Relay Service at 800-735-2258 TTY/Voice. Two weeks advance notice is requested.

City Council

City Council

All legislative powers of the City of Takoma Park are vested in a body designated as the Council of the City of Takoma Park, consisting of seven members. Six of these members are elected by ward and are called councilmembers, and one is elected at large and is called the mayor. The regular term of the councilmembers and the mayor is two years or until their successors have been elected and duly sworn. November 5 marks the 2024 municipal election. See page 9 for more information about how, when, and where to vote.



Mayor Talisha Searcy
talishas@takomaparkmd.gov



**Council, Ward 1
Shana Fulcher**
shanaf@takomaparkmd.gov



**Council, Ward 2
Cindy Dyballa**
cindydyballa@takomaparkmd.gov



**Council, Ward 3
Randy Gibson**
randallg@takomaparkmd.gov



**Council, Ward 4
Terry J. Seamens**
terrysts@takomaparkmd.gov



**Council, Ward 5
Cara Honzak**
carah@takomaparkmd.gov



**Council, Ward 6
Jason Small**
jasonsmall@takomaparkmd.gov



Robert DiSpirito
City Manager
301-891-7229
robertd@takomaparkmd.gov

City Manager

Day-to-day management of the Takoma Park government is overseen by the city manager. The city manager is appointed by the city council, implements the policies it adopts, and proposes an annual budget.

City Public Meetings, Boards, Commissions, and Committees

City Council Meetings

Meetings are usually held on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., unless the City Council is on recess. The Takoma Park City Council generally takes a recess in December and August. City Council meetings are available to watch on City TV Cable and are available to view on the City website live. You can also watch the archives at the City of Takoma Park Youtube channel. The Wednesday meetings include a public comment period.

The City Council meets in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium. Meetings are conducted in a hybrid (in-person and remote) format. Public comments may be provided over Zoom with advance registration. Of course, members of the public can testify in person as well.

Open Meetings

All meetings of the City Council and Council-appointed boards, committees, commissions are open to the public unless noted otherwise. All are subject to the Maryland Open Meetings Act. Notice of meetings is provided on the City Calendar.

Many board and committee meetings continue to be held on Zoom or in a hybrid format. For the most current information, visit takomaparkmd.gov and click on "Events and Meetings." Information on any meetings taking place will be published there along with information on how the public can observe.

Opportunities to Serve

Takoma Park residents have many opportunities to be involved in their government. Serving on a City board, commission, or committee is one way to be involved while providing a service to the community. These groups are advisory to the City Council, and some have specific roles related to conducting hearings or carrying out certain activities: Arts and Humanities Committee, Board of Elections, Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA), Emergency Preparedness Committee, Ethics Commission, Grants Review Committee, Sustainable Maryland Committee, Recreation and Community Engagement Committee, Tree Commission, and Youth Council.

Members are appointed by the City Council. Check the City website to see membership requirements and to find out the specifics of each group's mandate. Residents are encouraged to sit in on a meeting or two before applying to see if it is a good fit with their interests and skills.

Takoma Park Votes!

Nominating Caucus on **September 10, 2024**
Takoma Park vote-by-mail ballots arrive in **October 2024**
City Election Day on **November 5, 2024**

There will be two separate elections taking place in Takoma Park.

The presidential election is conducted by the Montgomery County Board of Elections. For that election, you can request a ballot in the mail, vote during early voting, or vote at your polling place on election day. Any information about that election will be available at: 777vote.org, which is the County Board of Elections website. Voters will also receive an election information booklet in the mail from the County.

The City of Takoma Park election for mayor and city council also takes place on November 5, but it is conducted by the Takoma Park Board of Elections. All

registered voters in Takoma Park will receive a Takoma Park election ballot in the mail. Those who don't receive a ballot, who need special assistance, or who are not yet registered to vote can vote in person on election day at the Takoma Park Community Center. The center will be open for voting 7 a.m.–8 p.m. for City Election voting only.

Who's Running? Candidates for mayor and city council are determined at the Nominating Caucus.

The Takoma Park Nominating Caucus is a public meeting that will convene at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium, 7500 Maple Ave. The purpose of the meeting is to accept nominations of candidates for mayor and city councilmember. Only registered voters of the city present at the meeting (or on Zoom) may nominate or second the nomination of a candidate. If not yet registered to vote, residents may register up until 5 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

Nomination of each candidate for city councilmember may be made on motion of any voter of the ward, and if such nomination is seconded, the person so nominated will be considered a candidate. Nominations of candidates for mayor may be made on motion of any voter of the city, and if such nomination is seconded, the person nominated will be considered a candidate.

A person may only accept a nomination for one city office. The name of each person nominated for the office of mayor and city councilmember will be placed upon the official ballot for the Nov. 5, 2024 City Election unless the person declines the nomination or does not meet the qualifications for office.

Candidates' photos and brief statements will be included in the October Takoma Park Newsletter. Also watch for information about candidate forums and events to educate yourself about your choices.

Are you registered to vote?

Make sure you are registered to vote. If you have voted in any

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¡Votar en Takoma Park!

La Reunión de Nominación de Candidatos:

10 de septiembre de 2024

Papeletas de votación por correo en Takoma Park llegarán en **octubre**

Día de las Elecciones de la Ciudad: **5 de noviembre de 2024**

Habrán dos elecciones separadas que se llevarán a cabo en Takoma Park

La elección presidencial se llevará a cabo por la Junta Electoral del Condado de Montgomery. Para esa elección, puede solicitar recibir una papeleta de votación por correo, puede votar durante el periodo de votación anticipada o votar en su lugar de votación el día de las elecciones. Cualquier información sobre esa elección estará disponible en: www.777vote.org, que es el sitio web de la Junta Electoral del Condado. Los votantes también recibirán del Condado de Montgomery un folleto de

información electoral.

La elección de alcalde y concejo municipal de la ciudad de Takoma Park también se llevará a cabo el 5 de noviembre, pero es realizada por la Junta Electoral de Takoma Park.

Todos los votantes registrados en Takoma Park recibirán una papeleta de votación de Takoma Park por correo. Aquellos que no reciban una papeleta, necesitan asistencia especial o que aún no estén registrados para votar, pueden votar en persona el día de las elecciones en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park. El Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park estará abierto para la votación por alcalde y concejo municipal de 7 a.m. a 8 p.m.

¿Quién se postula? Los candidatos para alcalde y concejo municipal se determinan en la Reunión de Nominaciones.

La Reunión de Nominaciones de Takoma Park es una reunión pública que se reunirá a las 7:30 p.m. el martes 10 de septiembre de 2024 en el Auditorio del Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave. El propósito de la reunión es aceptar las nominaciones de candidatos por alcalde y concejal de la ciudad.

Solo los votantes registrados de la ciudad presentes en la reunión (o en Zoom) pueden nominar o secundar la nominación de un candidato. Si aún no se han registrado para votar, los residentes pueden registrarse hasta las 5:00 p.m. del día de la reunión.

La nominación de cada candidato por concejal de la ciudad puede hacerse a moción de cualquier votante de ese distrito, y si dicha nominación es secundada, la persona así nominada será considerada un candidato. Las nominaciones de candidatos a la alcaldía pueden hacerse a moción de cualquier votante de la ciudad, y si dicha nominación es secundada, la persona nominada será considerada un candidato.

Una persona solo puede aceptar una nominación por un cargo

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recent election from your home address in Takoma Park, and if nothing has changed, you can expect to receive a ballot in October. If you have moved to Takoma Park recently, or if you have moved to a different address in Takoma Park, take a moment to confirm or update your registration. Visit takomaparkmd.gov, email clerk@takomaparkmd.gov, or call 301-891-7267.

Non-U.S. citizen residents and 16- or 17-year old residents are also eligible to vote in City of Takoma Park elections.

If you are a Takoma Park resident who will be 16 or 17 years old on or before November 5, or if you are not a United States citizen, you are still eligible to vote in the Takoma Park election for mayor and city council. Register now or confirm your registration to be sure you receive your ballot in the mail.

Will you be in town in October/November?

If you will be out of town in October and need your ballot to be sent elsewhere, complete a City of Takoma Park absentee ballot request form as soon as possible. Please don't delay making your request. (If you would like to receive a presidential election ballot in the mail, that must be requested from the Montgomery County Board of Elections.)

Ranked-choice voting in Takoma Park

The City of Takoma Park uses ranked-choice voting. When there are multiple candidates, voters may rank candidates in order of preference (1, 2, 3, etc.). Follow the instructions on your ballot. A candidate must receive a majority of first choice votes to win. If no candidate receives enough votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and those ballots are redistributed to their second choice. This continues until one candidate receives a majority.

Returning your vote by mail ballot.

After you vote your ballot, seal it in the ballot envelope, **sign the voter oath or affirmation**, place the ballot envelope in the return envelope, and return it to a city election secure ballot drop box or by mail. City drop boxes will be located at the Takoma Park Community Center and at the Takoma Park Recreation Center. *If you mail a ballot close to election day, be sure to take it to the post office and request that a postmark be added to the envelope as proof that it was mailed on or before election day. Do not simply place it in a blue mailbox.*

What if the ballot envelope you receive has someone else's name on it?

If you receive a ballot envelope addressed to someone else, **contact the city clerk**. Request a new ballot envelope with your name on it or vote in person on election day. You may NOT vote a ballot intended for someone else, even if they are a family member.

Ballot Drop Boxes

Takoma Park secure ballot drop boxes will be located at the Takoma Park Community Center (7500 Maple Ave.) and at the Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Ave.). Note: There will also be a Montgomery County ballot drop box at 7500 Maple Ave. Be sure to put your ballot in the correct box!

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de la ciudad. El nombre de cada persona nominada por el cargo de alcalde y concejal se colocará en la papeleta oficial para la elección municipal el 5 de noviembre de 2024, a menos que la persona rechace la nominación o no cumpla con los requisitos para el cargo.

Las fotos y las breves declaraciones de los candidatos se incluirán en el boletín informativo de Takoma Park de octubre. También esté atento a la información sobre los foros y eventos de los candidatos para informarse sobre sus opciones.

¿Está registrado para votar?

Asegúrese de estar registrado para votar. Si ha votado en alguna elección reciente desde su domicilio en Takoma Park, y si nada ha cambiado, puede esperar recibir una papeleta de votación en octubre. Si se ha mudado a Takoma Park recientemente, o si se ha mudado a una dirección diferente en Takoma Park, tómese un momento para confirmar o actualizar su registro. Visite takomaparkmd.gov, correo electrónico clerk@takomaparkmd.gov, or llame 301-891-7267.

Los residentes no ciudadanos estadounidenses y los residentes de 16 o 17 años también son elegibles para votar en las elecciones de la Ciudad de Takoma Park.

Si usted es un residente de Takoma Park que cumplirá 16 o 17 años de edad en o antes del 5 de noviembre, o si no es ciudadano de los Estados Unidos, aún es elegible para votar en las elecciones de Takoma Park para alcalde y concejal municipal. Regístrese ahora o confirme su registro para asegurarse de recibir su papeleta de votación.

¿Estarás en la ciudad en octubre/noviembre?

Si va a estar fuera de la ciudad en octubre y necesita que su papeleta de votación sea enviada a otro lugar, complete un formulario de solicitud de papeleta de voto en ausencia de la Ciudad de Takoma Park lo antes posible. Por favor, no se demore en hacer su solicitud. (Si desea recibir una papeleta de elección presidencial por correo, debe solicitarla a la Junta Electoral del Condado de Montgomery)

Votación por orden de preferencia en Takoma Park

La Ciudad de Takoma Park utiliza el método de votación por orden de preferencia. Cuando hay varios candidatos, los votantes pueden clasificar a los candidatos en orden de preferencia (1, 2, 3, etc.). Siga las instrucciones de su papeleta. Un candidato debe recibir la mayoría de los votos de primera opción para ganar. Si ningún candidato recibe suficientes votos, el candidato con la menor cantidad de votos es eliminado y esos votos se redistribuyen a su segunda opción. Esto continúa hasta que un candidato recibe la mayoría.

Devolver su voto por correo.

Después de marcar su papeleta con su voto, séllela en el sobre de la papeleta, firme el juramento o afirmación del votante, coloque el sobre de la papeleta en el sobre de devolución y devuélvalo a un buzón electoral de la Ciudad de Takoma Park o por correo. Los buzones electorales de la ciudad estarán ubicados en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park y en el Centro Recreativo de Takoma Park. *Si envía una papeleta por correo cerca al día de las elecciones, asegúrese de solicitar que se agregue un matasello al sobre como prueba de que se envió por correo el día de las elecciones o antes. No lo coloque simplemente en un buzón postal.*

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City Departments

Administration

Takoma Park Community Center

Third Floor

City Manager: 301-891-7229

City Clerk: 301-891-7267

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

The Administration office includes the City Manager, City Clerk, City TV, Communications, and Information Systems.

Communications Department

301-891-7236

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Communications employees manage all aspects of Takoma Park's outreach efforts to residents, the media and other stakeholders. Communications staff manage official social media channels, City's website: takomaparkmd.gov, the Takoma Park Newsletter, and the Takoma Insider (email newsletter), and partner with City TV and WOWD-LP 94.3 FM (Takoma Radio)

City TV

301-891-7118

Hours: City TV hours and availability are dependent on production schedules.

Takoma Park City TV is an award-winning government access channel in Montgomery County, Maryland, operated by the City of Takoma Park.

Finance

301-891-7212

finance@takomaparkmd.gov

takomaparkmd.gov/finance

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

The Finance office oversees the City's financial resources, processes payroll, pays bills, collects certain fees, and safeguards and invests City funds. The Finance department collects payments for landlord registration and licensing.

Online payment

Payments associated with a City-issued invoice may be made online or by phone by Visa, Mastercard, or Discover.

- A convenience fee of 3.75% or \$2.50, whichever is greater, will be charged.
- The fee is subject to change based on our Tyler's System Credit Card Services.
- Please call 301-891-7212 to talk to one of the finance staff if you wish to pay by credit card.

By mail or in-person payment

Finance Department
City of Takoma Park,
7500 Maple Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912

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Election Day Voting

There will be in-person voting for the City election only at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., on Tuesday, November 5. This option will be available for residents who did not receive a ballot, who are not yet registered to vote, or who need special assistance. Voting hours will be 7 a.m.–8 p.m.

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¿Qué pasa si el sobre de la papeleta de votación que recibe tiene el nombre de otra persona?

Si recibe un sobre electoral que contiene una papeleta de votación dirigido a otra persona, llame a la secretaria municipal. Solicite un nuevo sobre de papeleta con su nombre o vote en persona el día de las elecciones. NO puede votar con una papeleta destinada a otra persona, incluso si es un miembro de la familia.

Los buzones electorales de Takoma Park estarán ubicadas en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park, (7500 Maple Avenue) y en el Centro Recreativo de Takoma Park (7315 New Hampshire

Avenue). Nota: También habrá un buzón de entrega de papeleta de votación del condado de Montgomery para las elecciones presidenciales en 7500 Maple Avenue. ¡Asegúrese de poner su papeleta en el buzón correcto!

Votación el día de las elecciones

Solo habrá votación en persona para las elecciones de la Ciudad en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, el martes 5 de noviembre. Esta opción estará disponible para los residentes que no recibieron una papeleta de votación, que aún no están registrados para votar o para los votantes que necesitan asistencia especial. El horario de votación será de 7 a.m. a 8 p.m.

Housing & Community Development

301-891-7119

econdev@takomaparkmd.gov
housing@takomaparkmd.gov
planning@takomaparkmd.gov
codeenforcement@takomaparkmd.gov
arts@takomaparkmd.gov

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

The Housing and Community Development Department is responsible for a wide range of housing, development, neighborhood revitalization, economic development and cultural programming, including Code Enforcement and Takoma Park Arts.

Human Resources

301-891-7203

hr@takomaparkmd.gov
takomaparkmd.gov/government/human-resources

For an up-to-date listing of current vacancies and employment opportunities with the City of Takoma Park, visit takomaparkmd.gov/careers.

Police

911 (fire and rescue)
301-270-1100 (non-emergency)
police@takomaparkmd.gov
takomaparkmd.gov/police

Hours: Open 24/7

Whether online, in person, or on the phone, the Police Department is here to serve the people of Takoma Park.

Public Works

31 Oswego Ave.
301-891-7633
publicworks@takomaparkmd.gov
takomaparkmd.gov/publicworks

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

The Public Works Department is responsible for the maintenance of City-owned roads, buildings, stormwater management systems, gardens, parks, vehicles, and equipment. The department also provides solid waste collection and recycling services to single-family residential properties in the City and in the various business districts.

Food Waste Collection Program



The City's curbside food waste collection program is available to single family and multi-family properties with City collection and recycling pickup. Please register at takomaparkmd.gov/publicworks/food-waste-collection.

Large Item Pick Up



Heavy items, like appliances, mattresses, and furniture, are picked up by appointment only. There is a \$15 charge for the collection of up to three items. Call 301-891-7633 to schedule a pickup.

Electronics and Computer Recycling Drop-off



Bring your old or unwanted electronic equipment to be recycled to the Public Works facility. Drop-off available 24/7.

Trash Carts and Recycling Containers



Trash carts are available for sale. Purchase a 96-gallon trash carts for \$58.10 and 64-gallon for \$53.31 Carts have lids, wheels, and handles. Recycling containers are free and available at the Public Works facility for pick up during office hours, Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Battery Recycling Drop-Off Now Available



The City has partnered with Call2Recycle to provide battery recycling. Residents can now bring many types of used batteries to the Public Works Department, located at 31 Oswego Avenue, during office hours, Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Acceptable batteries include, AAA, AA, C, D, 9v, lithium ion, small- sealed lead acid, nickel cadmium, button cell, nickel metal hydride, and nickel zinc. See the City website for more information about what battery types can and cannot be accepted.

Recreation Department

Office: 7505 New Hampshire Ave.*
301-891-7290
recreation@takomaparkmd.gov
takomaparkmd.gov/recreation

In person visits: Monday–Thursday, 10:00 a.m.–5 p.m.
Friday, 12–5 p.m.

The City of Takoma Park's Recreation Department provides recreational opportunities for all ages. Our facilities and programs are intended to refresh and rejuvenate our residents, improve our health, and connect us as families and as a community.

Takoma Park Maryland Library

7505 New Hampshire Ave.*
301-891-7259
takomapark.info/library
facebook.com/takomaparklibrary

Library and Computer Center Hours:

Monday–Thursday, 10 a.m.–8 p.m.;
Friday–Sunday, 12–6 p.m.

** The Recreation Department office and the Library are temporarily located on New Hampshire Avenue while the Library and sections of the Community Center on Maple Avenue undergo renovation.*

City Department Directory

Takoma Park Community Center/Sam Abbott Citizens' Center

7500 Maple Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912
301-891-7100

Standard Hours: Monday–Thursday, 8:30 a.m.–9:30 p.m.;
Friday, 8:30 a.m.–10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.;
Sunday, 12–5 p.m.

Takoma Park Recreation Center

7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912
301-891-7289

See page 12 for more information.

The Recreation Center is a hidden gem. Once inside you'll discover a basketball gym, community programs, and fantastic staff. Please stop by and see for yourself!



301-891-7118
cabletv@takomaparkmd.gov
takomaparkmd.gov/citytv

Watch City TV online or in HD on RCN channel 1060, Comcast's Municipal Broadcast Network 997, or in SD, on channels 13 (RCN Comcast) and 28 (Verizon).

Also find us on



Watch City Council meetings, Snapshots, Takoma Park Arts and other community events on City TV.

¡Tenemos programación en Español!
¡Visítenos! Somos Takoma y El Barrio También
Canta ahora en TeleCiudad.



Important City Department Phone Numbers



City Information	301-891-7100
City Clerk	301-891-7267
City Manager	301-891-7229
Communications.....	301-891-7236
Finance	301-891-7212
Housing & Community Development.....	301-891-7119
Library	301-891-7259
Neighborhood Services	301-891-7113
Police	301-270-1100 / Emergency 911
Public Works.....	301-891-7633
Recreation/Facilities Rental	301-891-7290

Takoma Park Community Center/ Sam Abbott Citizens' Center

Open During
Library
Construction!

7500 Maple Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912
301-891-7290

Standard Hours:

Monday–Thursday
8:30 a.m.–9:30 p.m.

Friday
8:30 a.m.–10 p.m.

Saturday
10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Sunday
12–5 p.m.

Art Studio

- The art room, kiln, and easels are available to students enrolled in classes.
- Not available for rentals

Auditorium

- 154 fixed chairs
- Room for six wheelchairs
- Row of seven fixed chairs can be removed
- Food and beverage not permitted

Dance Studio

(Closing during Renovation)

- Large studio with mirrors and wood floor
- No street shoes on dance floor

Game Room

(Closing during Renovation)

- Hours vary by age and time of year
- Ping pong, pool and foosball tables
- Basketball and arcade-style games

Notary Public

Notary service is available Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. by appointment only. Please contact Irma Nalvarte at Irman@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7214.

The service is free for city residents.

Passport Service

Passport Service is available at the Takoma Park Community Center (third floor). Appointments are required.

Please email Sofia Visurraga, customer service representative, at sofiav@takomaparkmd.gov for information and appointments. Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Se puede aplicar por su pasaporte americano aquí, solo con cita. Solicite la cita enviando un correo electrónico sofiav@takomaparkmd.gov

Teen Lounge (Grades 6–12)

Comfortable, safe space for teens to socialize and enjoy a snack after school. Teens can also participate in daily activities and work on homework.

Library
construction
may limit room
availability.



Book Your Next Event with Us!

To reserve a space: Go online through Active Net or come in person to our office at 7505 New Hampshire Ave. We are open Monday–Thursday, 10:00 a.m.–5 p.m.; Friday, 12–5 p.m. Rentals can be made three months in advance, but no less than 10 days before the event. Full payment is due at the time of reservation.

Policies

Please visit us online at takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/parks-pavilions-and-athletic-fields and click on Administrative Regulation (PDF) for recently updated regulations governing public use, facilities rentals, and general responsibilities of the user. The renter is responsible for set-up and clean-up. This time should be included in the rental. Nothing can be affixed to the walls.

Standard Rental Hours

Takoma Park Community Center

Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–9 p.m.
Saturday, 10:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 12:30–4:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Recreation Center

- Call for availability:
301-891-7286
- See page 12 for prices

Heffner Park Community Center

Monday–Saturday, 9 a.m.–9 p.m.
Sunday, 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

Refundable Deposits: a \$50 deposit is required for Heffner Park rentals, and may be charged for other facility rentals as well. Refunded 30 days after event date as long as facility is left on time and clean.

** Business rate applies to all organizations, nonprofits, for-profit entities, or community groups.*

Small Meeting Rooms

Lilac Room

Capacity 20 with tables
25 without tables

Hydrangea Room

Capacity 20 with tables

Fees

T.P. resident	\$35/hour
Non-resident	\$60/hour
Business*	\$80/hour

Large Meeting Rooms

Azalea Room

Capacity 55 with tables
65 without tables

Heffner Park Community Center 42 Oswego Ave.

Capacity 40 with tables
50 without tables

Fees

T.P. resident	\$45/hour
Non-resident	\$70/hour
Business*	\$90/hour

**Library
construction
may limit room
availability**

Auditorium

The Auditorium, located in the Takoma Park Community Center, is LEED-CI Silver Certified and has 154 fixed seats with two aisles and room for six wheelchairs. The floating wood stage is approximately 18 inches off the floor, 30 feet wide and 19 feet deep at the center. This environmentally friendly space has a state-of-the-art lighting system with colored LED washes, a sound system with two wireless microphones, and connections for up to 10 wired microphones. The presentation system has a 6' x 11' projection screen in the center of the stage and two small screens on either side of stage. Extra fees apply for staffing outside of normal hours of operation, specialized AV services, extraordinary maintenance demands, or required security. Insurance is required.

Hourly Rates

Nonprofit: \$150/hour
Regular: \$220/hour

Minimum 4-hour rental, plus additional fees listed above.

For more information about renting the Auditorium, contact Recreation staff at 301-891-7290 or email recreation@takomaparkmd.gov

Event Cancellations: In the event of a cancellation, the City is to be notified in writing to recreation@takomaparkmd.gov at least seven business days (Mon.-Fri.) prior to the scheduled event. The rental fees will be refunded, minus a cancellation fee of \$25.

During construction parking will be severely limited at 7500 Maple Ave. For events with more than 20 guests, a permit for parking at PBES next door can be obtained through Community Use of Public Facilities, Montgomery County MD at 240-777-2725.

Takoma Park Recreation Center

**7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912
301-891-7289**

Standard Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday.	2:30–9 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	12–9 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Sunday	Closed
* Tuesday & Thursday 12–2 p.m. are reserved for senior use only	

The Recreation Center is a hidden gem. Once inside you'll discover a basketball gym, fitness room, community programs, and fantastic staff. Please stop by and see for yourself!

Membership Fees

Recreation Center General

(1 year membership; does not include Fitness Room)

	Resident	Non-resident
Youth (5 - 12 years)	\$5	\$15
Teen (13 - 17 years)	\$10	\$20
Adult (18+ years)	\$55	\$65

Fitness Room *(Closes 30 minutes ahead of building)*

(Membership includes General Membership benefits)

	Resident	Non-resident
Adult (6 months)	\$85	\$95
Adult (1 year)	\$120	\$140
Senior, 55+	Free	Free

Hourly Rental Information

Gym *(capacity 294)*

TP Resident	\$50/hour
Non-resident	\$75/hour
Business	\$95/hour
After hours	additional fee(s)

Meeting Room FRONT *(capacity 30)*

Meeting Room BACK *(capacity 40)*

TP Resident	\$35/hour
Non-resident	\$60/hour
Business	\$80/hour
After hours	additional fee(s)

Call 301-891-7289 for availability.

\$50 security deposit required per rental.
Business rate includes commercial and nonprofit organizations.






















































Join Us For:

- Before & after school programs
- Classes for all ages
- Summer camps
- Senior programs
- Kids & Teen nights

All programs and classes at the Takoma Park Recreation Center are co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Department of Recreation. We thank them for the continued support.



What's in our parks?

	Reserve Through Rec. Dept.	On Street Parking Available	Public Transportation Accessible	Bike Station Within Walking Distance	Water Fountain	Picnic Tables	Playground	Pavilion	Grill	Half Basketball Court	Restroom Facility
Belle Ziegler Park 7350 Takoma Ave. Ward 1											
Colby Avenue Park Cherry & Colby Ave. Ward 2											
Forest Park 598 Elm Ave. Ward 2											
Heffner Park 42 Oswego Ave. Ward 4											
Jackson-Boyd Park 7398 Jackson Ave. Ward 2											
Spring Park 6999 Poplar Ave. Ward 3											
Toatley-Fraser Park Eastridge Ave. Ward 5											

In addition to the parks above, the city maintains

B.Y. Morrison Park Carroll & Ethan Allen Ave. Ward 3	Circle Woods Cockerille & Poplar Aves. Ward 3	Ed Wilhelm Field 2 Darwin Ave. Ward 4	Lee Jordan Field 7611 Piney Branch Rd Ward 4	Takoma Park Dog Park Darwin Ave. Ward 4
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For information about other parks in our city, please visit montgomeryparks.org or call 301-495-2525.

Parks and Permits

It is highly recommended to secure permits for various events and activities held in public parks throughout the City. Permits guarantee location and time of a rental. Please contact the Recreation Department at 301-891-7290 before conducting business on park property.

Pavilion Rental Fees

\$105 per day T.P. resident
\$125 per day Non-resident/Business
\$50 refundable deposit per rental

FAQs

- In order to secure a park pavilion, it is highly recommended to have a permit. (See page 15).
- Moon bounces, stages ect must be approved in advance and only used in locations designated by the City.
- Permits are honored rain or shine, with no refunds/ reschedules.
- Sale of merchandise is prohibited on City property outside of scheduled City events.
- The sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages is not permitted in any facility/park/pavilion.
- Buildings and parks are not available on City holidays.
- Reserving a pavilion does not guarantee use of an adjacent field if applicable.



Recreation Department

New/temporary office located at
7505 New Hampshire Ave. Suite 205
301-891-7290
recreation@takomaparkmd.gov
takomaparkmd.gov/recreation

*Fall program
registration
August 15 for city residents
August 8 for those with a
current scholarship*



The City of Takoma Park Recreation Department provides recreational opportunities for all ages! The department's facilities and programs are intended to refresh and rejuvenate residents, improve health and connect

families and the community. Staff are continually working to improve our offerings while adding new and innovative programs and activities to meet the ever changing needs of our residents and community.

Rental Requests

For more information about local parks and room rentals, see pages 10-13. Availability is limited during construction.

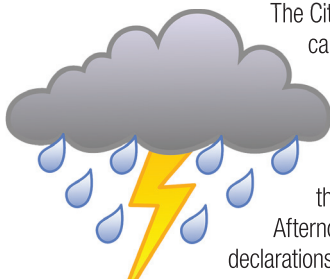


Roscoe the Rooster

Roscoe the Rooster made Takoma Park his home for 10 years, roaming the city and staking his territory on the lawn in front of and behind the apartment houses near (now closed) Mark's Kitchen on Carroll Ave. Roscoe died in a hit-and-run in February 1999.

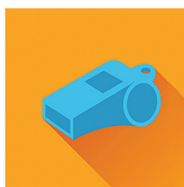
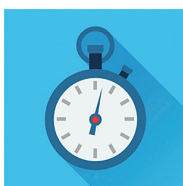
A life-sized statue of Roscoe the Rooster, crafted by local artist Normon Greene, stands on a pedestal in front of the clock tower in the center of downtown Takoma Park.

Is my class canceled due to weather?



The City of Takoma Park has several ways to let you know if City facilities are closed or classes are canceled: get notices via Takoma Park Alert (takomaparkmd.gov/alert), check the City's webpage, or call the Recreation Department's Inclement Weather Line (**301-891-7101 x5605**). Be sure to check for Recreation program updates, Morning and Afternoon Addition, updates, and/or any with other activity that may be canceled. In general, if the federal government closes or has a delayed opening in the morning, the City does the same. Classes that begin before a delayed opening are usually canceled. Morning and Afternoon Addition and After the Bell programs follow the Montgomery County Public Schools declarations. If there is a 2-hour delay in the morning, Morning Addition starts at 9:00 a.m.

Recreation



SO THAT ALL TAKOMA PARK RESIDENTS CAN PLAY... SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR RECREATION PROGRAMMING

Recreation Department scholarships are available for Takoma Park residents in need. Scholarships can be used for activities, camps and childcare through the City of Takoma Park Recreation Department and is valid for the calendar year. Apply now!

For more information visit takomaparkmd.gov/recreation

Las becas del Departamento de Recreación están disponibles para los residentes de Takoma Park que las necesiten. Las becas se pueden utilizar para actividades, campamentos y cuidado de niños a través del Departamento de Recreación de la Ciudad de Takoma Park y son válidas para el año calendario. ¡Aplique ya!

Para obtener más información, visite takomaparkmd.gov/recreation

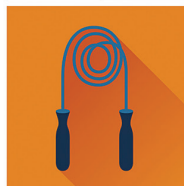
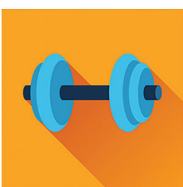
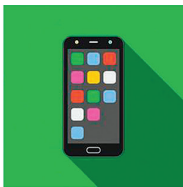
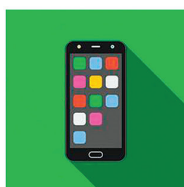


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ለበለጠ መረጃ takomaparkmd.gov/recreation ጎ ይጎብኙ

Des bourses du département des loisirs sont disponibles pour les résidents de Takoma Park dans le besoin. Les bourses peuvent être utilisées pour des activités, des camps et la garde d'enfants par l'intermédiaire du département des loisirs de la ville de Takoma Park et sont valables pour l'année civile. Postulez dès maintenant!

Pour plus d'informations, visitez le site takomaparkmd.gov/recreation



Passport Services

Passport Services are available by appointment only Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center on the third floor. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 301-891-7204. Passport service hours are subject to change without notice. Whenever possible, office closures will be announced on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and the City's website. Please note the following:

- The City of Takoma Park does not process the DS-82 Renewal Application, which is a mail-in only application.
- We now only process passports via appointments.
- All forms must be written clearly with no mark outs, scratch outs, etc.

Questions?

Call the State Department at 1-877-487-2778



Special Events



Family Outdoor Movie Night

Pack your blanket and some snacks—it's time for another outdoor movie night! The screening starts at dusk at Ed Wilhelm Field (behind Piney Branch Elementary School). Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a movie under the stars with your family! The movie will be a family friendly G- or PG-rated hit. Vote on the City website for your favorite. Due to limited parking, walking to the event is encouraged.

Ed Wilhelm Field
2 Darwin Ave.
All ages
Saturday, September 7
Movie starts at dusk
Free



16th Annual Play Day

It's time for you to let your hair down, put on your comfy shoes, and get ready to play! Yes, that's right. Let's Play America and the Takoma Park Recreation Department have teamed up to present this wonderful event! Rain or Shine. This event will have tons of fun activities for the entire family to enjoy, including the popular Touch-A-Truck. To see a full listing of activities and performances, please visit letsplayamerica.org. See you there!

Takoma Park Middle School
7611 Piney Branch Road
All ages
Saturday, September 21
10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Free



Monster Bash

The Takoma Park Recreation Department staff is preparing for a host of events on October 26 that are designed for the entire family. We will kick off at 1 p.m. with games and other fun activities and the Annual Costume Contest and Parade. We will end the festivities with the Costume Award Ceremony and celebration along Maple Avenue.

Categories include Most Original, Funniest, and Scariest. Divisions: 4 and younger, 5–8, 9–12, teen and adult, and overall group

For additional information or if you would like to volunteer, especially to be a judge for this event, please contact Chris Parker at christopherp@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7290.

To receive an update on weather conditions, please call our inclement weather line at 301-891-7101 ext 5605. Due to the



nature of this event walking is encouraged.

Event starts at the Takoma Park Middle School parking lot
7611 Piney Branch Road
Saturday, October 26, 1 p.m.
All ages
Free

Partnerships

The Takoma Park Recreation Department has formal partnerships established with neighborhood, community, business and not-for-profit organizations. These partnerships allow our department to leverage resources and generate citywide interest and support for our facilities, programs and events. We appreciate your support!



Photo by Selena Malott

Piney Branch Pool (Adventist Community Services)

The pool is located at Piney Branch Elementary School, 7510 Maple Ave. Park behind the Community Center, and use side entrance to school on Grant Ave. For more information, contact Joyce Seamens at 301-565-0190, tjseamens@aol.com, or visit acsgw.org.

Pool Hours:

Monday–Thursday, 6:30–8:30 a.m. and 4–7:30 p.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
Sunday, 9 a.m.–3:45 p.m.



Let's Play America

Let's Play America is a nonprofit that encourages people of all ages to play. Let's Play America and the Recreation Department co-sponsor four play events a year: a pool party and three play days. The dates are on the Let's Play America website under events. Residents who want to close their street for play: to help with the independent play events or would like to find more information are welcome to contact Let's Play America at info@letsplayamerica.org or 301-928-9962 or visit letsplayamerica.org.

Takoma Park Community Band

Join! Check out the Band's website: tkpkcommunityband.wordpress.com

Musicians at all levels of expertise are welcome. No audition necessary. The only requirements are the ability to read music and to have fun!

For more information, email takomaparkcommunityband@gmail.com OR call Marcia Diehl, conductor, at 240-424-2349.



Takoma Soccer

Takoma Soccer is a volunteer program, the goal of which is to provide local kids with a fun, recreational soccer program close to home. Takoma Soccer strives to teach children the value and fun of teamwork, cooperation, practice, and sportsmanship. For more information, go to takomasoccer.org or contact Howard Kohn at kohn@erols.com.



Credit: takomasoccer.org

Children as young as 3 years old can play with Takoma Soccer.

Recreation: Tots

NOTE: Due to Library and Community Center renovations, some of our classes have changed locations; please be sure to review the descriptions for updated information.

Fall Registration Opens:
TP Residents: 8/15
Scholarship Awardees: 8/8

Tots

Newborn-5



SPORTS

Tot Sports

Children are introduced to the fundamentals of sports such as soccer and basketball. The goal of this program is to provide the opportunity for each child to develop motor skills and nurture their growth socially and emotionally through teamwork and good sportsmanship.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 3–5
6-week session
Saturdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
September 14–October 19
Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70

INSTRUCTORS WANTED FOR CREATIVE CLASSES

Art
Culinary
Dance
Environmental
Music
Science
Theater



Recreation: Youth

NOTE: Due to Library and Community Center renovations, some of our classes have changed locations; please be sure to review the descriptions for updated information.

Youth

5-12 years



ART

Ceramics—Clay for Kids

In this class, children will receive instruction on how to utilize a variety of techniques (coil, pinch, slab work) to create one-of-a-kind sculptures and vessels out of clay. There is a non-refundable \$25 materials fee (per child) due to the instructor on the first day of class. Instructor: Caroline MacKinnon

Takoma Park Community Center
(Art Studio)
7500 Maple Ave.
Ages 7–13

Mondays, 4–5 p.m.

Session 1 (5 weeks): Sept. 23–Oct. 21

Session 2 (5 weeks): Oct. 28–Dec. 16

Wednesdays, 4–5 p.m.

Session 1 (6 weeks): Sept. 25–Oct. 30

Session 2 (6 weeks): Nov. 6–Dec. 18

Fridays, 4–5 p.m.

Session 1 (5 weeks): Oct. 4–Nov. 8

(No class on Oct. 18)

Session 2 (5 weeks): Nov. 15–Dec. 20

5 weeks: Resident: \$145 /

non-resident: \$165

6 weeks: Resident: \$170 /

non-resident: \$190

Materials Fee: \$25

DANCE

Ballet & Stretch

This 45-minute class focuses on the basics of ballet but highlights advanced concepts, including history, stage production, performance etiquette, and choreography. Students will explore the history of ballet and practice combinations from various ballet choreographers. Instructor: Charonne Butler

Takoma Park Community Center
(Auditorium)
7500 Maple Ave.
Ages 5–12
Saturdays, 12:30–1:15 p.m.

Recreation: Youth

NOTE: Due to Library and Community Center renovations, some of our classes have changed locations; please be sure to review the descriptions for updated information.



Session 1: September 7–October 12
Session 2: October 26–December 7
Resident: \$150 / non-resident: \$170

Hip-Hop Dance

This movement class focuses on the basics and culture of Hip-hop. Students will learn basic b-boy and b-girl dance technique, practice temporal awareness and spatial awareness, and learn choreography. Instructor: Charonne Butler

Takoma Park Community Center
(Auditorium)
7500 Maple Ave.
Ages 5–12
6-week session
Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Session 1: September 7–October 12
Session 2: October 26–December 7
Resident: \$150 / non-resident: \$170

DRAMA & THEATER

Let's Pretend

NEW!

Who doesn't love to pretend? In this class students will develop imagination through age appropriate acting exercises, engage with a classic story, then apply theatre concepts to become the characters in that story and act it out together. We'll start with warm-ups and imagination exercises, sing and choreograph a song excerpt, dig into a few stories with one to perform, experiment with key concepts, then perform it together (ending with a curtain call of course)! Each class will focus on a new story. We will explore imagination, voice/movement, improvisation, sensory perception, subtext, blocking/staging, physical character, and many other acting concepts that happen to be excellent for elementary development! Classes limited to 10 students to facilitate interaction. Instructor: Gretchen Weigel Doughty, artistic director of On Stage Takoma

Takoma Park Community Center
(Auditorium)
7500 Maple Ave.

Ages 4–6
8-week session
Saturdays, 9:30–10:20 a.m.
September 14–November 9
(No Class on October 26)
Resident: \$170 / non-resident: \$190

DROP-IN

Kid Night

The Takoma Park Recreation Center provides affordable, safe and FUN activities for kids, on the first and third Friday nights of the month. Come out to a night of games and other fun activities. Bring your friends and meet new ones. Free with Recreation Center membership.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 5–12
Fridays, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
Sept. 6, Sept. 20, Oct. 4, Oct. 18,
Nov. 1, Nov. 15, Dec. 6, Dec. 20
Free with Membership

EXTENDED CARE

Fun Day

Fun Day is offered on specific days when Montgomery County Public Schools are not in session. The program is designed to provide recreational activities for children enrolled in Kindergarten through Fifth grade. Through structured, socially distanced activities, crafts and presenters, there are opportunities for socializing, unwinding, and releasing energy. Participants will meet at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Must bring a lunch, snacks, and labeled water bottle. Activities and performers are subject to change. Registration is required per day—

select all dates available or just the one that fits your schedule. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of the program.

Takoma Park Community Center
(Azalea Room)
7500 Maple Ave.
Grades K–5
8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Thursday, October 3: Watkins Nature Center
Friday, October 18: Cox Farms
Monday, November 4: Shadowland Laser Adventure
Resident: \$55 / non-resident: \$65 per day

School Year 2024-2025

The Recreation Department is pleased to again offer before care and after care at both of our facilities. Morning and Afternoon Addition are held at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue and Before and After the Bell is held at the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue. Our emphasis is on providing fun, leisure and recreation programs before and after the school day, while providing a safe environment for children grades K-5. Participants will engage in daily indoor/outdoor group activities and holiday based events. Children will have time for free play, homework assignments, breakfast (not provided) or simply prepare for their upcoming day in before care. Each afternoon kids will receive a snack, have a time period to complete homework, and enjoy arts and crafts, sports, board games, plays, free play and more! Programs operate when MCPS schools are in session. There is a payment plan available, with a 20% deposit due at the time of registration. The remaining balance will be divided into monthly payments beginning Oct 1st.



Recreation: Youth

Morning Addition or Before the Bell

7-9 a.m.

Resident: \$1,700 / non-resident: \$2,000

Afternoon Addition or After the Bell

3:30-6:30 p.m.

Resident: \$2,500 / non-resident: \$3,000

Bundle Discount

Participants who register for both before care and after care at the same facility in one transaction will receive a discount.

Resident: \$3,570 / non-resident: \$4,250



SPORTS

Basketball Skills Clinic

Emphasizing individual improvement is one of the guiding philosophies of this skills clinic. Participants will be provided with excellent coaching which allows each person to develop a sense of pride and individual accomplishment. This is a basketball class not league play. Instructor: Gregory Harris

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 6-12

Saturdays, 12-1 p.m.

Session 1 (8 weeks): September 7-October 26

Resident: \$100 / non-resident: \$110

Session 2 (7 weeks): November 2-December 21

Resident: \$90 / non-resident: \$100

Futsal League 2025

Futsal, a sport that is similar to soccer, offers the perfect combination of learning and fun. It is designed to improve fundamental technique and skill development during the winter months. It's also a great opportunity to meet new friends, stay in shape, and prepare for the upcoming season of other sports. Please note that program registration is first-come-first-served. Parents are

encouraged to volunteer as coaches.

This is an eight-game season. Practices will be once a week and will begin in December 2024. Games are on Sundays and begin January 12, 2025. Game times are subject to change based on gym availability and number of teams in a division.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

8-game season

Games on Sundays

January 12-March 16

Ages 7 - 8 division, 12-2 p.m.

Ages 9 - 10 division, 2:15-4:15 p.m.

Ages 11 - 12 division, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Resident: \$100 / Non-resident: \$110

Registration opens: October 16 for residents, October 9 for families with approved scholarships, and October 23 for non-residents

Winter Basketball League 2025

The Winter Basketball League is a developmental, community league. The program will introduce children to the fundamentals of basketball and emphasize that playing the game and being a member of a team are more important than winning. The coaches in this league

will focus on personal improvement, sportsmanship, and fun.

Practice times (1 hour per week) vary throughout the week at various local schools. Games are held on Saturdays, times vary. Specific details regarding each league will be available on: takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/sports/winter-basketball-league/

Coaching Information: Volunteer coaches are always needed. Please contact the Takoma Park Recreation Department if interested (240-687-2202).

Team Assignments: K-2 Grade divisions will reflect gender equity based on number of participants.

Special Requests: Requests must be made in writing and submitted through ActiveNet at time of registration, though requests are not guaranteed.

Registration opens: October 16 for residents, October /9 for families with approved scholarships, and October 23 for non-residents

Various local school gyms

Grades K-8

8-week season

Practices: weekday evenings

Games: Saturdays, January 11-March 1

Resident: \$100 / non-resident: \$110



Teens

13-17 years

Fall Registration Opens:
TP Residents: 8/15
Scholarship Awardees: 8/8



ART

Drawing & Watercolor

Have fun learning to draw with black, white, and colored drawing materials; paint with watercolors; use pen and ink and explore mixed media approaches to representational imagery. Subjects will include still life, self portrait, landscape (weather permitting) and floral studies. Beginning students are welcome! The skills focus of the class is appropriate for students interested in developing a portfolio for entry into the Visual Art Center at Albert Einstein High School. Materials fee of \$20 to be paid directly to the instructor on the first day of class. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman

Takoma Park Community Center
(Art Studio)

7500 Maple Ave.

Ages 11–14

6-week sessions

Tuesdays, 3:30–5:30 p.m.

Session 1: September 3–October 8

Session 2: October 22–December 10

Thursdays, 3:30–5:30 p.m.

Session 1: September 5–October 17

Session 2: October 31–December 12

Resident: \$185 / non-resident: \$205

Materials Fee: \$20

DANCE

Kolor Me Dance at TPMS

Hip-hop dance incorporates aspects of modern dance, tap, and swing, integrating music and complex movements to form artistry. Come and learn the fundamentals of hip-hop dance by learning fun routines! Teens will also have the opportunity to make their own routines and explore other

types of dance such as ballet, jazz, and stepping. Instructor: Kokoe Divine

Takoma Park Middle School

(Gymnasium)

7611 Piney Branch Road

Grades 6–12

8-week session

Fridays, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

October 4–November 22

Free

DRAMA & THEATER

Dungeons and Dragons

They creep through the twilight, quiet as shadows muttering a language long forgotten, a language only spoken by ghosts. Use your imagination and storytelling ability in this classic fantasy role-playing game. Roll dice to cast spells and battle monsters. Creativity and cooperation help the group "survive." Instructor: Dave Burbank

Takoma Park Community Center

(Auditorium)

7500 Maple Ave.

Ages 10–17

4 Week Sessions

Fridays, 4–6 p.m.

Session 1: September 13–October 4

Session 2: October 11–November 1

Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70

On Stage Acting: Scene Study

Transform into a character in a scene from a Broadway play or feature film while developing acting technique. Students will learn and apply acting concepts from Konstantin Stanislavski and Uta Hagen in order to build a believable character in scene work. Each class consists

of warm-ups, improv, script analysis, instruction and experimentation with acting techniques, and scene. All scene materials will be provided. All scenes are from Broadway and off-Broadway plays as well as feature films and television shows. Acting concepts learned in class nurture imagination and go hand-in-hand with literary analysis and writing skills. Class culminates with a showcase performance on the last class. \$10 materials fee to be paid to the instructor on the first day of class. Instructor: Gretchen Weigel

Takoma Park Community Center
(Auditorium)

7500 Maple Ave.

Ages 11–15

9 Week Session

Mondays, 4–5:15 p.m.

September 9–November 4

Resident: \$285 / non-resident: \$305

Materials Fee: \$10

DROP-IN

Teen Lounge

Welcome to the Teen Lounge—where adolescents can do their homework, participate in fun activities, or kick back with friends after school in a safe environment. Open Monday through Friday, 3 p.m.–6 p.m. Youth in grades 6–12 are encouraged to come to the Lounge after school!

Takoma Park Community Center
(Teen Lounge)

7500 Maple Ave.

Grades 6–12

Montgomery County Public School days

Weekdays, 3–6 p.m.

Free with registration

Recreation: Teens

Teen Night

The Takoma Park Recreation Center provides quality, affordable, safe and FUN activities for teens. Nothing to do on the second Friday of the month? Come on out to a night of games, activities and more. Bring your friends for a night out of the house. Free with a Recreation Center Teen Membership.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 12–16

Fridays, 6:30–8:45 p.m.

September 6–December 6

Free with membership

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Teen Money Management

Money talks! Want to learn the language? This financial literacy program specifically focuses on basic finance skills that are relevant to the lives of teens. By learning the concepts listed below and putting them into practice, participants will be much better prepared when they begin building their own credit history and managing their own money. Topics include long-term saving goals, credit cards and credit reports, opening a bank account, student loans, and budgeting. Instructor: Tyronda Boone of Zoey & Zander

Virtual

8-week session

Grades 6–12

Mondays, 6–7 p.m.

October 14–December 16

Fee:

SPORTS

Girls Beginning Flag Football Workshop

The Takoma Park Recreation Department's Sports Division will now offer a beginner's Workshop (3 sessions) for Girls Flag Football. This program will assist in the individual understanding of the sport of Flag Football and prepare girls to play in High School.

Takoma Park Community Center
(Azalea Room)

7500 Maple Ave.

Ages 12–16

3-week session

Check
this out!

Saturdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

September 7–21

Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30

Fundamentals of Basketball for Teens

The Takoma Park Recreation Department's Sports Division will now offer a basketball skills class to young and upcoming Teens. This program will assist in the individual improvement of teens, which is one of the guiding philosophies of this basketball program. Participants will be provided with excellent coaching which allows each person to develop a sense of pride and individual accomplishment. The level of instruction will be adjusted to fit the individual needs of each participant.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 12–16

8-week session

Saturdays, 8:30–9:30 a.m.

September 7–October 26

Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30

TRIPS

Teen Trip - Field of Screams

Join the Teen program for a spooky trip to the Field of Screams! Voted the #1 best scream park in Maryland, teens will have a frighteningly fun time taking part in the haunted house and trail experiences. No food or drink is allowed into the venue, but concession stands will be available onsite, offering pizza, burgers, etc. so please bring money if you would like to take advantage of this. Additionally, there will be carnival games with tickets available onsite. Participants will meet in the Teen Lounge (Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave.) at 5 p.m. The bus will be departing at 5:15pm. PLEASE be on time as refunds will not be provided due to missing the bus. Parent discretion is advised! Space is limited, so register today.

Takoma Park Community Center
(Meet in Teen Lounge)

7500 Maple Ave.

Grades 6–12

Fri, October 18

5–9 p.m.

Resident: \$30 / non-resident: \$40

Teen Trip: Roller Skating

This year we are rolling to Skate Zone (1082 Route 3 South at Capitol Raceway Road, Crofton, Maryland 21114) for a fun day off from school! No food or drink is allowed into the venue, but pizza will be provided. Additional concessions will be available onsite, so please bring money if you would like to take advantage of this. Participants will meet in the Teen Lounge (Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave) at 11:30 a.m. The bus will be departing at 11:45 a.m. PLEASE be on time as refunds will not be provided due to missing the bus.

Takoma Park Community Center
(Meet in Teen Lounge)

7500 Maple Ave.

Grades 6–12

Monday, November 4

11:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Resident: \$15 / non-resident: \$25

Teen Winter Break Trip: Snowtubing

Join the Teen Program for a day of snowtubing fun at Liberty Mountain Resort in Carroll Valley, Pennsylvania! Teens will be able to enjoy various tubing courses throughout the park for a few hours. Please dress warmly. Water-resistant outer layers are strongly encouraged. Must bring a bagged lunch and/or spending money. Teens will meet in the Teen Lounge (Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave.) at 10:30 a.m. The bus will be departing at 10:45 a.m., so be sure to be on time!

Takoma Park Community Center
(Meet in Teen Lounge)

7500 Maple Ave.

Grades 6–12

Friday, December 27

11:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30



Adults

16+ years

Fall Registration Opens:
TP Residents: 8/15
Scholarship Awardees: 8/8



ART

Ceramics—Hand Building & Sculpture

In this class students will use hand-building skills like pinch, slab, and coil to create their own imaginative projects out of clay. Students are also encouraged to try out a variety of surface treatments on their one-of-a-kind vessels and sculptures. This course is great for both beginners and more seasoned ceramicists. Experienced wheel throwers are welcome to use the electric wheels. Dream something up and try it out in the studio! There is a \$35 materials fee for the instructor, due on the first day of class. There is drop-in studio time some Fridays, 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Instructor: Caroline MacKinnon

Takoma Park Community Center
(Art Studio)

7500 Maple Ave.

Ages 16 and up

5-week session

Mondays, 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Session 1 (6 weeks): September 23–October 28

Resident: \$180 / non-resident: \$200

Session 2 (5 weeks): November 18–December 23

Resident: \$145 / non-resident: \$165

Materials Fee: \$25

Painting Exploration

In this beginner class, participants are encouraged to try different materials and methods, as well as explore some of the basic elements of design in their work. Participants will try still life and landscape, as well as painting from their imaginations.



We will examine paintings by other artists and give helpful feedback to one another in a comfortable setting. Grab a brush and come by the studio to explore painting! A \$35 materials fee is due to the instructor on the first day of class to cover some basic materials. Instructor: Caroline MacKinnon

Takoma Park Community Center
(Art Studio)

7500 Maple Ave.

Ages 16 and up

6-week sessions

Wednesdays, 1:30–3 p.m.

Session 1: September 25–October 30

Session 2: November 6–December 18

Resident: \$180 / non-resident: \$200

Materials Fee: \$35

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Writing Life Stories



Do you want to share important life experiences through your writing and during class discussion? Our stories are part of what makes us human. Whether you are a lifelong writer or a beginner, this class is for you. This class will help you to jumpstart your memories, organize your ideas, and edit your work. Come and share your life experiences with the class. This class is held virtually. Prepare to have fun! Instructor: Barbara Rosenblatt

Virtual on Zoom

Ages 16 and up

10-week session

Mondays, 7–8:30 p.m.

September 9–November 18

Resident: \$95 / non-resident: \$105

Recreation: Adults

FITNESS

Energy Circles Qi Gong



Learn simple energizing movements designated to improve health, mobility, flexibility, general happiness, and peace of mind. You will develop a daily routine selecting from a variety of exercises that are easy to learn. You will find immediate benefits; invigorating energy systems, opening up joints and relaxing our bodies, minds and spirits. No experience needed to connect with our vital life energies. Instructors: Patrick Smith & Joann Malone

Virtual on Zoom
Ages 18 and up
8-week session
Tuesdays, 7:30–8 p.m.
October 1–November 19
Resident: \$30 / non-resident: \$40

Flow Yoga

This class is a mixed-level hatha yoga class with flow sequences. Students who are new to yoga will learn what yoga is, get familiar with yoga poses and alignment, be introduced to basic breathing techniques, and become more grounded and mindful in their approach to yoga—both on and off the mat. Students who have been practicing yoga for a while will also benefit from this class, as they will have the opportunity to deepen their practice and understanding of yoga and will learn more sequences, poses, and modifications. The class provides an environment for students to take a break from their busy schedules to nourish their mind, body, and spirit in a safe, non-competitive, and supportive space. The class sessions are energizing, grounding,



playful and renewing. Instructor: Jen Skillcorn

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Back Room)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.

6-week sessions
Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.

Session 1: September 14–October 19

Session 2: November 2–December 14
Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70

Foundation Fitness II



Foundation Fitness II (FFTII) is a group exercise program that is appropriate for all age and skill levels, but especially for those who are new to fitness training. FFTII is designed to improve health and skill-related fitness components with focus on muscular strength and endurance; flexibility, agility, balance, coordination, speed variance and power. The program is designed to enhance muscular definition and strength; decrease fall risks; improve cardiovascular capacity; increase physical fitness level; improve movement efficiency and range of motion; and enhance general sense of well-being. The exercises and movements can be modified to challenge all levels of fitness. This class utilizes a high back chair; light hand weights (1, 2, or 3 lb. weights depending on fitness level) and/or a resistance tube. Each participant should provide their own equipment, a towel, and a water bottle. Additionally participants should be able to perform floor exercises using a mat and various resistance tools. Instructor: Michael Williams

Virtual on Zoom
Ages 18 and up
12-week session
Saturdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
September 7–November 23
Resident: \$6 / non-resident: \$16

Iyengar Yoga for Beginners

This class will introduce you to yoga as taught by the Iyengar Method. This method opens up the practice of yoga for everyone. The use of props and a step by step approach teaches alignment and brings strength and flexibility. The basic postures are introduced and awareness is created in the whole body. As awareness of every part of the body is felt, energy is generated and the breath is engaged. The aim is to bring into alignment the different

parts of the body to associate the breath and mind and release tension and stress. Instructor: Tehseen Chettri

Heffner Park Community Center
42 Oswego Ave.
Ages 18 and up
16-week session
Wednesday, 6–7:30 p.m.
September 4–December 18
Resident: \$270 / non-resident: \$300

Ker De Zuri DanXercise Class-Afro Beat

Step into the world of Ker De Zuri DanXercise, where we celebrate the richness of African dance. Our mission is to bring joy and forge lasting memories through the art of dance. Immerse yourself in a blend of hip-hop, salsa, dancehall, contemporary, and African dance, crafting an unforgettable workout suitable for all ages. Let the rhythm help you shed calories as you delight in learning choreography and dance your worries away. Don't forget to bring water and a towel to enhance your dance journey with us! Instructor: Khady N'Diaye

Takoma Park Community Center
(Azalea Room)
7500 Maple Ave.
Ages 16 and up
10-week session
Thursdays, 7–8 p.m.
September 12–November 21
Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70
Drop-in Fee: \$10

Zumba New Ave

Come out and enjoy an hour of Zumba, to get your weekend started right! Zumba is a total body workout, combining all elements of fitness with cardio, muscle conditioning, balance and flexibility. Zumba takes the work out of workout, by mixing low- and high-intensity moves. The class will incorporate Latin music that will easily move you through your workout. Instructor: Yesika Young

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 16 and up
6-week sessions
Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.
Session 1: September 14–October 19
Session 2: November 2–December 14
Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70



Recreation: Adults

MARTIAL ARTS

Karate Self-Defense

Promote physical fitness, self-defense, leadership, and cultural exchange through the practice of a traditional Okinawan karate style, Isshinryu (which means One Heart Way). This class will consist of warm-ups, stretching, and learning and practicing Isshinryu Karate upper and lower body basics. Free with Recreation Center Membership.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Back Room)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 16 and up
18-week session
Mondays & Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.
September 4–December 30
Free with Membership

SPORTS

Adult Kickball League

Join our Adult Kickball League this fall! The Takoma Park Adult Kickball League is a fun and exciting recreational program for competitive adults of all skill levels. Games will be played on Sundays. Put

together your winning team and go against other area teams in order to win the league championship. Free Agent Policy: Individual participants will be placed on a waiting list and contacted if space becomes available on a team. If offered a space on a team, you will be responsible to pay your registration and any other associated fees to that team. Spaces are not guaranteed.

Belle Ziegler Field
7350 Takoma Ave.
Ages 18 and up
Sundays, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
September 15–November 3
Resident team: \$200 / non-resident team: \$300

Adult Drop In Pickleball

Pickleball open play. Join other “new” players for pickleball practice and play in the Gymnasium. This is a drop-in program. Two courts and limited paddles are available. The entire magic and success of pickleball is the way it has been set up to be a welcoming sport in an informal setting—meaning, you can show up to the courts and pick up a game. It doesn’t matter what your age is. That is the beauty

of DROP IN play.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 18 and up
8-week session
Mondays, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
September 9–October 28
Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30

Takoma Park Volleyball Club

Join the Takoma Park Volleyball Club! Grab a friend or make a new one on the court. The club will meet weekly at the Takoma Park Recreation Center for pick-up games of volleyball. Registration is required to participate and all skill levels are welcome.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 18 and up
8-week session
Wednesdays, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
September 11–October 30
Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30



Recreation: 55+

NOTE: Library and Community Center renovations may impact these classes/programs in the future. Classes could be moved to another location, become virtual, or be postponed depending on space

55+

Fall Registration Opens:
TP Residents: 8/15
Scholarship Awardees: 8/8



SENIORS ARE ADULTS TOO!

Don't forget to check out the Adult class offerings on pages 25-27 for more options.

*Ask us about scholarship opportunities.

ART

Arts and Crafts with Alice

Brighten the Fall days and get creative. The class meets once a month to learn a new skill and create different projects. Enjoy the supportive and positive atmosphere. Instructor: Alice Sims, Art for the People

Heffner Park Community Center
42 Oswego Ave.
Ages 55 and up
4-week session
Wednesdays, 10–11 a.m.
September 18, October 16, November 20, December 18
\$6

DANCE

Hip-Hop Move N' Groove

This new dance class gives participants a beat to start their day! Easy-to-follow hip-hop, jazz, lyrical, and modern choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion, and coordination. No equipment needed. No experience required. Instructor: Kokoe Divine

Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
14-week session
Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
September–December 12
(No class on November 28)
\$6

Line Dance

Line Dancing is an enjoyable social activity that provides great physical and mental exercise. It helps to strengthen bones and muscles. It also increases stamina and flexibility as well as supports weight loss and stress reduction. No experience necessary. Choose which day of the week you would like to attend class. Instructor: Barbara Brown

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
Tuesdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
14-week session
September 3–December 10
(No class on November 5)
Wednesdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
15-week session
September 4–December 11
\$6

Zumba Gold

Active older adults who are looking for a modified Zumba class that recreates the original moves you love at a lower intensity. The design of the class introduces easy-to-follow Zumba choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination. Choose which day of the week you would like to attend in-person class, or add virtual on Fridays. Instructor: Yesika Young

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
Wednesdays, 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
15-week session
September 4–December 11
Fridays, 10–11 a.m.



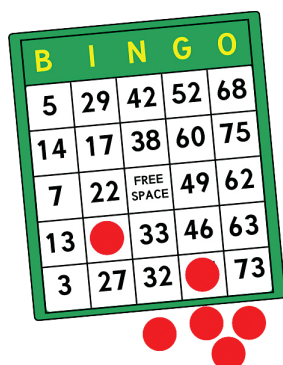
Fridays in
person or
virtual



Recreation: 55+

14-week session
September 6–December 13
(No class on November 29)
\$6

DROP-IN



Bingo

Come and try your luck and win a prize! This is a drop-in activity once a month, no registration required. Host: Paula Lisowski

Takoma Park MD Library
7505 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
Tuesdays, noon–p.m.
September 24 and October 22
Free

FITNESS

Enhance Your Fitness



A great total body workout using low-impact aerobic movement and gentle resistance training. This class focuses on increasing strength, balance, and flexibility through stretching, breathing, core training, and proper posture alignment—using standing and seated exercises, including warm up and cool down routines. Registration is required for this virtual Zoom class. The virtual class link will be sent with your email receipt. Instructor: Adriene Buist

Virtual on Zoom
Ages 55 and up
14-week session
Tuesdays, 9–10 a.m.
September 3–December 10
\$6

Foundational Fitness 55 plus



Foundational Fitness for adults ages 55 and older is designed to improve health with focus on muscular strength, endurance, flexibility, balance, and coordination—utilizing a high back chair, light hand weights, and/or resistance tubes. Have a towel and water near by. Equipment is not provided. Registration is required for this virtual Zoom class. A link will be provided upon registration receipt. Instructor: Michael Williams

Virtual on Zoom
Ages 55 and up
15-week session
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10–11 a.m.
September 3–December 12
\$6

Iyengar Yoga for 55+

This class will introduce you to yoga as taught by the Iyengar method.

The use of props and a step-by-step approach teaches alignment and brings strength and flexibility. The basic postures are introduced, whole body awareness is created, and energy is generated in order to bring into alignment the different parts of the body to associate the breath and mind and release tension and stress. No experience needed. Students must bring their own yoga mat. Instructor Tehseen Chettri

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
14-week session
Tuesdays, noon–1 p.m.

**New
Class!**

September 3–December 10
(No class on November 5)
\$6

Qigong 55+

Qigong is meditation via movement, standing and/or seated, that can benefit participants by lowering stress and anxiety, increasing focus, and improving balance and flexibility. It combines breathing, gentle movement and meditation to improve good mental, physical and spiritual health. Instructor: Anne Harrison

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Back Room)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
14-week session
Thursdays, 10–11 a.m.
September 5–December 12
(No class on November 28)
\$6

Rhythmic Drumming 55+

Cardio fitness drumming lets the rhythmic beat move you through tapping and drumstick clapping while standing and/or sitting to exercise your mind and body. No drumming experience required. Instructor: Dance Solutions

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Back Room)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
14-week session
Tuesdays, 1:15–2:15 p.m.
September 3–December 10
(No class on November 5)
\$6



Recreation: 55+

Tai Chi Strength

Begin with meditation and stretching followed by Tai Chi forms and balance exercises to build strength and endurance. End with cool down exercises. Choose which day of the week you would like to attend class. Instructor: Robert Thompson

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 55 and up

Tuesdays, 12–1 p.m.

14-week session

September 3–December 10

(No class on November 5)

Wednesdays, 12–1 p.m.

15-week session

September 4–December 11

\$6

Yoga for Healthy Aging

This class helps build strength and endurance, increase flexibility and range of motion, improve posture and balance, and create a general sense of well-being. Special attention is paid to bone health. Work at your own pace in a series of seated, standing, and floor poses and incorporate breathing and relaxation techniques. Students need to provide their own yoga sticky mat, a yoga belt (or equivalent, e.g., a necktie), a tennis ball, and preferably a yoga block and blanket. Instructor: Carol Mermey

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Back Room)

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 55 and up

14-week session

Fridays, noon–1 p.m.

September 6–December 13

(No class on November 29)

\$6

SPORTS

Pickleball Open Play 55+

Join other “new” players for pickleball practice and play in the Gymnasium. This activity is geared toward beginners. Two courts and limited paddles available. This is a drop-in program, so registration is not required. However a free 55+ Recreation Center membership is required for this activity. Sign up for a membership in person at 7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 55 and up

14-week session

Thursdays, noon–2 p.m.

September 5–December 12

(No activity on November 28)

Free with a membership

TRIPS

Trip to Prince George’s County Recycling Center

Have you wondered what happens to your recycling? Join Dory Estrada, sustainability manager for the City of Takoma Park, to tour this recycling facility (where Takoma Park sends its recycling) and learn about the single-stream collection process.

Advantages to the single-stream system: technological advances, convenience to citizens, increased recycling rate, reduced collection cost, and increased types of materials collected. Dress comfortably and wear comfortable shoes. There will be a light amount of standing and walking. The building is wheelchair accessible. Rain or shine. Registration is required.

Meet at Takoma Park Recreation Center

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 55 and up

Tuesday, September 17

9:30 a.m.–noon

\$5

Trip to Strathmore Art Gallery

We’ll visit the Strathmore Mansion Art Gallery in North Bethesda, Maryland, to enjoy two art exhibits at this popular venue. ArtFlow: selections from three family’s collections of art, artifacts, and ephemera of the African American, Caribbean, and African Diaspora. In The Company of Trees: a celebration of trees growing in forests, jungles, parks, and backyards across continents and terrains. Afterwards, check out the gift shop. Dress comfortably and wear comfortable shoes. There will be a fair amount of standing and walking. Rain or shine. Registration is required.

Meet at Takoma Park Recreation Center

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 55 and up

Wednesday, October 23

12:30–3:30 p.m.

\$5

A graphic advertisement for a computer class. It features a pink and yellow background. At the top left, a pink speech bubble says "Join us!". Below it, the words "Computer" and "Class" are written in large, black, handwritten-style font. Underneath, the word "Call" is in a smaller black font, followed by the phone number "301-891-7290" in a bold black font, and "for more details!" in a bold black font. On the right side, there is an illustration of a laptop computer on a brown surface. In the top right corner, there is a cluster of black dots of varying sizes.

Recreation Registration and Policies

visit us online @

<http://apm.activecommunities.com/takomaparkrecreation>

Fall program
registration opens

August 15 for
city residents

August 8 for those with a
current scholarship



4. Click **Create Account** or enter other family members into the system at this time.
5. Click **Intro** and search for a course or facility.

Alternative registration

You can still register in person:

7500 Maple Ave.
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
7505 New Hampshire Ave.

Make checks or money orders payable to: City of Takoma Park. List program name and participant's name on front of check. No phone registrations.

If you are having trouble registering or if you have questions concerning classes, please call **301-891-7290** or e-mail us at recreation@takomaparkmd.gov.

With ActiveNet® you can use a credit card to:

- Register for recreation classes 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!
- Request a park or recreation facility for an event.
- Receive class confirmation via e-mail.
- View and print class schedules.
- Purchase memberships to the gym and fitness room.
- Service fee applies online.

Instructions for creating an account

Contact the Recreation Department in advance if you currently have an account and need to verify your username and password.

1. Access apm.activecommunities.com/takomaparkrecreation
2. Click **Create an Account**.
3. Complete all necessary information; fields marked with an asterisk are required.

- A resident of Takoma Park is any person who lives within the 2.4 square mile corporate limits. A non-resident lives outside the corporate limits. If you are not sure of your residency status, please call us and we will be happy to assist you. Or visit takomaparkmd.gov/ and search "ward map."
- We require, for most programs, that participants are the required age as the date of the first class. All age requirements are set to benefit the participant and allow for more consistent program instruction. In some instances, the requirements have been set for the participant's safety.
- Customers can only register individuals listed on their household account for programs.

Refund policy

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

- Registrants assume the risk of changes in personal affairs or health.
- Refunds will be approved with written/email (recreation@takomaparkmd.gov) notification received **seven business days** prior to scheduled start of the program. A \$25 cancellation fee will be deducted per participant/per class and may take up to 30 days to receive.
- Registrant may choose to receive a credit for the remaining amount, which may be used for another program.
- Refunds after the program has begun will be considered only with medical verification (**no exceptions**). No refund after the program has ended.
- Membership passes are not eligible for a refund.
- The online processing fee will not be included in refunds.

Wait list policy

In the event that a program has more interest than available space, we will keep a waiting list. Individuals on the waiting list will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. In the event that another class is created, individuals from the waiting list will be contacted.

Registration policies

- The Recreation Department reserves the right to cancel any program/class due to insufficient enrollment or to substitute teachers without participant notification.
- Classes may be canceled on school holidays, vacations, snow days or any other dates noted in the guide. If schools close midday due to a weather or other emergency, children's classes will also be canceled. Every attempt will be made to reschedule classes canceled due to weather emergencies.



WE DON'T SPAM

Periodically you will receive emails about upcoming registration dates, special events, weather closings, special promotions or new programs. It is important that you have a valid email address in our database. If you change email addresses, move, etc., please let us know.



REGISTER EARLY!

Nothing cancels a good class quicker than waiting until the last minute to register. If there aren't enough registrations by a certain date, the course may be canceled.

Housing and Community Development

301-891-7119 • HCDadmin@takomaparkmd.gov

The Housing and Community Development Department covers a range of subjects from housing to transportation, land use to economic development.

Housing

301-891-7119 • housing@takomaparkmd.gov

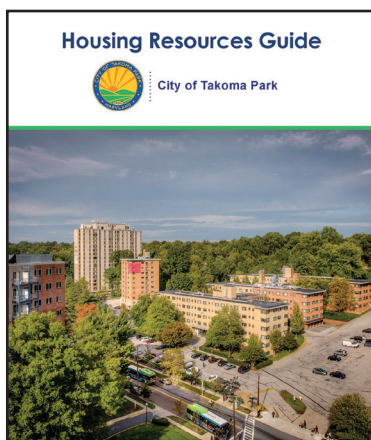
Tenant Resources

Whether you need assistance paying rent, information about the tenant displacement process, mediating issues with your landlord, or even working with a tenant association to purchase your building, the Housing Department has you covered.

Note that tenants have the right to purchase the rental property where they live in the event that it is placed on the market for sale.

Rent Stabilization

Takoma Park's Rent Stabilization Law was first adopted in 1981 and is one of the City's primary affordable housing programs. The program is designed to preserve the city's affordable housing stock and maintain economic and ethnic diversity by controlling the frequency and amount of rent increases that may be imposed by a landlord.



Home Stretch Down Payment Assistance

The City of Takoma Park's Down Payment Assistance Program, called the Home Stretch, provides financial assistance to eligible individuals and families seeking homeownership.

Housing Resource Guide

The Housing Department has put together a resource guide that provides a variety of services and opportunities for Takoma Park residents. The guide is available in English, Spanish, and Amharic at takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-communitydevelopment.

Emergency Assistance Program

The City of Takoma Park Emergency Assistance program provides emergency financial assistance to homeowners facing a crisis related to eviction, foreclosure, or utility payments. Residents making 50% of the area median income are able to apply for funding through the City of Takoma Park.

Contact Housing staff if you have questions about any of these programs or resources. Or visit the Housing section of takomaparkmd.gov.

Help with Small Home Repair for Seniors

The City of Takoma Park was awarded **\$26,000** from the Maryland Department of Aging's Aging in Place grant program to support the Village of Takoma's Small Home Repair Program. The City of Takoma Park also matches the grant with some of its own funds, bringing the total to **\$30,000**.

Takoma Park's Code Enforcement division will use the funds to work with the volunteers of the Village of Takoma Park to underwrite the cost of materials for repairs and accessibility modifications for senior homeowners in Takoma Park and Village membership dues for those for whom that expense is

a hardship.

The Village has a team of volunteers who perform repairs and modifications for Village members, with members responsible for the cost of materials. Underwriting the cost of construction materials and accessibility aids removes the barrier of members needing to cover those sometimes costly expenses themselves. Expanding the reach of this program helps ensure that older residents live in homes that are safe and meet their changing needs.

Call the Village of Takoma Park at 301-646-2109 to request help.

Aging in Place Grants

The Aging in Place grants are part of the Maryland Department of Aging's strategy to increase the resources and capacity for local agencies on aging, senior villages, and nonprofit organizations serving older Marylanders and their caregivers. The funds go to providing high-quality services and support, developing social connection and community engagement, and fostering the cultivation of social capital, enabling older Marylanders to thrive in their communities.

Housing & Community Development

Code Enforcement **301-891-7113** **codeenforcement@takomaparkmd.gov**

The Code Enforcement division protects the health and well-being of Takoma Park residents through the preservation of its residential and commercial infrastructure. Enforcement efforts are coordinated with other city departments and county and state officials to the greatest extent possible.

Code Enforcement covers the following initiatives and bans

- Filing a Code Complaint
- Anti-Litter Initiative
- Noise Control
- Plastic Bag Ban
- Plastic Straws and Stirrers Ban
- Polystyrene Ban
- Property Maintenance Code
- Safe Grow
- Suburban Deer Management

Economic Development **301-891-7119** **econdev@takomaparkmd.gov**

Do you own a business located in Takoma Park or are a business owner looking to move to a thriving, diverse community? Are you a property owner or investor looking to explore your options in Takoma Park? Our Economic Development team

is here to help navigate the business and real estate development processes in the city. Our staff can provide various kinds of support, including technical support, site selection, and access to capital.

Visit the Housing and Community Development section of takomaparkmd.gov to find out more about local policies that impart doing business in Takoma Park.

Planning And Community Development **301-891-7119 • planning@takomaparkmd.gov**

The Planning and Community Development division manages a wide range of projects and activities including public space improvements, transportation projects, the Safe Routes to School program, site development review, grants management, and collaboration with county and state partners on master plans and regional planning efforts.

Learn more about these projects at takomaparkmd.gov.

- Bikeways Program
- Development Review



Photo by Sam Kittner

- Bus Stop Improvements
- Maple Avenue Connectivity Project
- Metropolitan Branch Trail Upgrade
- Minor Master Plan Amendment
- New Ave Bikeway
- Public Space Management Plan
- Safe Routes to School

Grants

Grant funds are awarded on a competitive basis for projects ranging from STEAM-focused programming (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math), downpayment assistance to first-time homebuyers (in the form of a forgivable loan), and capital improvements benefiting the community

or a specific neighborhood.

Priority is typically given to projects or programming which primarily benefit the residents of Takoma Park; provide services to at-risk populations; engage diverse members of the community; promote civic involvement by under-represented populations; further the

economic or environmental sustainability of the community; and are offered in partnership with another organization.

A table of current grant programs can be found at takomaparkmd.gov/grants.

Takoma Park Maryland Library

Website: takomapark.info/library
Phone: 301-891-7259
Email: library@takomaparkmd.gov



The Library is now in its interim space at 7505 New Hampshire Avenue, in the Hampshire Place shopping center. This is for the duration of construction on our new library building.

You can keep up to date with our progress and interim location in a variety of ways:

- subscribe to the *Takoma Insider*, an email newsletter with fortnightly updates about all the city departments
- check the Takoma Park Newsletter, sent monthly to all residents
- check our website at takomapark.info/library and read our blog posts and events pages
- Follow us on Facebook (search Takoma Park Maryland Library) and Twitter (@takoma)

Our phone number is 301-891-7259.

The hours are the same for both the Library and Computer Center:

Monday through Thursday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday through Sunday: 12 noon to 6 p.m.

The Library and Computer Center will be CLOSED on the following holidays:

- September 1 and 2
- November 11, 28, 29, 30
- December 1, 24, 25

Books-to-Go (curbside pickup) and Books-to-You (delivery for City of Takoma Park residents only) are still available. Email librarytakomapark@gmail.com to make a request.

The Computer

Center offers drop in help. You can also call ahead for computer skills coaching (free and ongoing). The Computer Center has the same hours as the Library, Monday–Thursday 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Friday–Sunday noon–6 p.m.



We have regular programs for both adults and children. Please check the website or the City Newsletter for the latest information.

Regular children's programs

Neighborhood Circle Time: Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. The first Tuesday of each month, we welcome Jumpstart for the Arts to Neighborhood Circle Time.

Canta Juego (Spanish Circle Time): Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

Family Chess: Sundays at noon

Kids Art, Lego Fun: once a month on Sundays (check the calendar!)

Regular adult programs

Crochet and Cozies: Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library (FTPML) fall book sale is coming up in October! Date, time, and location will be announced through the Takoma Park newsletter and at takomapark.info/library.

Look for our annual Solstice Celebration in December! We hope to have dancers, storytellers, crafts, and refreshments.

WinterQuest: Our annual wintertime reading program will begin on the last day of school in December. Stay tuned!

Takoma Park City TV

**7500 Maple Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912
301-891-7118**

**City TV hours and availability
are dependent on production schedules**

Takoma Park City TV is an award-winning government access channel in Montgomery County, Maryland, operated by the City of Takoma Park. Other entities in Montgomery County, such as Montgomery College, the Montgomery County Government, the Public Schools, and the City of Rockville, also operate PEG (Public, Educational, and Government) Access channels, which comprise of the Connect Montgomery Alliance (CMA). These channels offer cable subscribers the ultimate in local programming, with shows featuring local government, schools, teachers, soccer games, performances, hearings, classes, and events that the major broadcast programmers tend not to cover in a central metropolitan area like this.



Watch City TV

- Takoma Park City TV is available via local cable television providers.

Watch City TV on Cable

- RCN | Channel 13, HD Channel 1060
- Comcast/Xfinity | Channel 13
- Verizon Fios | Channel 28

Listen to TV on the Radio

- City TV also host a program, "We Are Takoma/Somos Takoma" on WQOW-LP 94.3 FM (streaming on takomaradio.org) every Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. "We Are Takoma/Somos Takoma" is a bilingual radio show about city services and other important information.



City Council Meetings

- City TV now offers a hybrid format with City Council meetings.
- Video – Live and Archives (since September 5, 2018)
- Video Archive (through July 25, 2018)



City TV Schedule

- For the latest schedule, check out the City TV two-week program schedule. The City TV schedule is subject to change without notice.

Watch the Municipal Broadcast Network

- Takoma Park City TV, Rockville 11, and Montgomery Municipal Cable share an HD channel, the Municipal Broadcast Network.

Municipal Broadcast Network Channels:

- Comcast/xfinity | Channel 997

Watch City Council meetings, Snapshots, the Takoma Arts series and other community events on City TV.

¡Tenemos programación en Español! ¡Visítenos! Somos Takoma y El Barrio También Canta ahora en TeleCiudad.





Poetry Abounds on the Ground in Takoma Park

You can find poems on the street under your feet if you look at our map to stay on track.

The City's Arts and Humanities Division is expanding a sidewalk poetry program featuring poems written by local residents that have been stamped into sidewalks across the city. An online map at bit.ly/3wuxH1F includes icons with the text and photos of the poems on a looping route that travels past many popular local destinations, including Sligo Creek Trail, Adventist University, the Takoma Park Community Center, and downtown.

"We thought this map would be a fun way to highlight our sidewalk poetry and encourage people of all ages to get outside and walk or bike around town," Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith said. "It's exciting to see poetry by local residents in unusual locations."

Takoma Park has the only sidewalk poetry program in the D.C. area, which was inspired by a project launched by artist Marcus Young with Public Art Saint Paul in



St. Paul, Minnesota. Sidewalk poetry has spread to other cities across the country from Key West, Florida, to Santa Clarita, California.

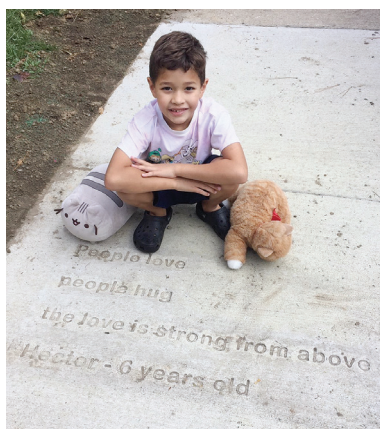
More than 150 Takoma Park residents submitted their original poems in a sidewalk poetry contest in 2021, and a committee of local poets picked 10 children and 10 adults as the winners who ranged in age

from 6 years old to seniors. Each winner received a \$100 prize and an opportunity to have their original poem stamped in a local sidewalk. You can read all of the poems at bit.ly/sidewalkpoetrywinners.

Using large custom-made metal plates with raised letters, City public works crews press the poems into wet concrete during sidewalk construction or repairs. Nine of the 20 poems have been stamped so far with plans to stamp more poems this year outside the Takoma Park Community Center and at other locations across the city.

This project is part of the City's *Public Art Works* initiative which incorporates public art into public works projects in an effort to locate public art more equitably across the city.

"It's rare to be able to add an artistic touch to basic concrete so we are happy to participate," Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite said. "The thoughtful and playful sentiments expressed in the poems will have a long life in our sidewalks."



Public Works

Public Works

301-891-7633

publicworks@takomaparkmd.gov

takomaparkmd.gov/publicworks

SERVICES

Mulch

Leaf mulch, made by grinding the leaves collected annually, is available for pickup and delivery. The mulch pile is accessible for self-loading every day of the week. Loading of trucks and mulch delivery is done for a fee. Deliveries are available from March through October on Fridays by appointment. To schedule a delivery, call 301-891-7633. Our prices have increased: Charges are \$55 for a 3-yard load and \$75 for a 7- or 10-yard load for city residents.

Electronics and Computer Recycling Drop-Off

Bring old or unwanted electronic equipment to be refurbished or recycled to the Public Works facility. The drop off location is on the right side of the front parking lot, under a shed roof. Available 24/7.

Battery Drop-off

Batteries are accepted for recycling at Public Works during office hours. 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Friday. Each battery must be in a plastic bag or have the positive end taped, to avoid a fire hazard. Acceptable batteries include: AAA, AA, C, D, 9v, lithium ion, small sealed lead acid, nickel cadmium, button cell, nickel metal hydride, and nickel zinc. The following CANNOT be accepted: Wet cell batteries, car batteries, rechargeable lithium ion >300 Wh, lithium primary >25g LI.

Trash Carts, Recycling Containers and Food Waste Containers

Trash carts are available for sale. 64-gallon trash carts are \$53.30 and 96- gallon are \$58.10. Trash carts have lids, wheels,



Holiday Pick-up Schedule

Monday, September 2, Labor Day

Yard trimming collection is canceled

Monday, November 11, Veterans Day

Yard trimming collection is canceled

Thursday and Friday November 28 and 29, Thanksgiving

Thursday's trash, recycling, and food waste collection will take place on Wednesday, November 27.

Friday's trash, recycling and food waste collection will take place on Saturday, November 30.

Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24 and 25, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Tuesday's Trash, recycling, and food waste collection will take place on Thursday, December 26.

Wednesday's trash, recycling, and food waste collection will take place on Friday, December 27.



and handles. Recycling and food waste containers are free and available at the Public Works facility for pick up during office hours, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Friday.

Large Item Pick Up

Heavy items, like appliances, mattresses and furniture, are picked up by appointment only. The fee is \$15 for the collection of up to three items. Call to schedule a pickup at 301-891-7633.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Leaf Collection

November 12 through December 13

The Fall vacuum leaf collection program will take place over a 5-week period from November 12 through December 13. All streets will receive at least two collections over the course of the program. State Highway streets will be posted for specific collection days. Notices will be mailed out to residents in advance of the collection. Details can be found at takomaparkmd.gov/government/public-works.

Food Waste Collection Program

Any City resident that receives city trash collection service is eligible to participate in the food waste collection program. Households that participate in the City's Food Waste Collection program can receive up to five buckets of compost from the program. The compost is stored at the Public Works facility, 31 Oswego Ave., Silver Spring, 20910.

Details can be found at takomaparkmd.gov/government/public-works.

Sustainability

Since 2011, Takoma Park has been a certified Sustainable Maryland Community, but many residents may not know how to take full advantage of the city's green initiatives.

There are dozens of ways city residents can take advantage of the plethora of programs. Here's a look at a few the city initiatives and partnerships to make Takoma Park green.

Home Weatherization and Solar Installation

The Home Weatherization and Solar Installation program is a partnership with Edge Energy/Building Change Inc. to assist low-to-moderate Homeowners with weatherization repairs and electrification changes, including rooftop solar for those who qualify. For more, visit buildingchange.net.

Electrify MC

Electrify MC is an electrification program for homeowners. This one-stop option to electrify their homes includes scheduling an energy audit, choosing improvements based on findings, and receiving direct incentives. Visit montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/energy/homes/electrify-mc.html.

Go Solar

With the growth of the solar industry in recent years, it's time to shine a light on this wonderful renewable energy opportunity for our residents! There are options for residents to enroll in Community Solar or to install solar on your roof. The drastic decline in solar prices has made it extremely competitive, and there are now numerous financing or leasing options that make the jump to solar easier than ever!

Takoma Park and Montgomery County collaborate with Solar United Neighbors to promote their co-op campaign, which typically gives buyers around a 17% discount on the cost of installation. For more, visit solarunitedneighbors.org.

Community Solar is a way to buy locally sourced solar power that doesn't involve installing any panels on your house. The company connects you with solar projects in your area and provides you with clean energy through your normal



utility. One such company is Neighborhood Sun, a community solar organization based in Maryland. For more, visit neighborhoodsun.solar.

Renewable Energy Options

The City of Takoma Park has long purchased 100% wind electricity through renewable energy credits for its own operations, and while residents and businesses have also been able to purchase renewable energy through a number of suppliers in Maryland, choosing the right supplier has been a barrier for many. Shopping the various suppliers, navigating confusing contract terms, misleading advertising, high rates, and unclear sources of power have led only a small percentage of businesses and households in the city actually to choose clean power.

There is now a wide market of clean

energy providers. For a full list of providers, visit psc.state.md.us/electricity/electric-supplier.

Transportation

As of 2019, 45% of Takoma Park's total emissions came from transportation. Transportation emissions are broken down into commercial, personal, municipal, and transit—with personal and commercial having the largest emissions. Takoma Park is committed to lowering transportation emissions, and has helped do so by increasing bike lanes, car free challenges, and assisting in the deployment of charging stations for electric vehicles around the city.

Biking

Biking is a great way to move about the city, whether it is for pleasure, errands or transportation we encourage residents to get out and hit the pavement. There are a multitude of projects that Takoma Park has been implementing to make the city more bike friendly.

With access to the Sligo Creek Trail and Metropolitan Branch Trail, downtown Washington, D.C., and nature are all easily within reach. Takoma Park is currently improving bike routes, installing bike parking and bike repair stands, and working to expand bike sharing.

Need a bike? There are seven Capital Bikeshare stations in Takoma Park connecting to those in nearby Silver Spring and Washington D.C. Pick up one of the iconic red bikes in the city and ride to any of Capital Bikeshare's 370+ stations in the Metropolitan Washington area.

You can pick up a printed bike map at the Community Center (7500 Maple Ave.) that shows shared used trails, designated bike lanes, and other route options in Takoma Park as well as in lower Montgomery County, western Prince George's County, and the northern portion of Washington, D.C. That map is also available online at takomaparkmd.gov/about-takoma-park/getting-around.

There are more resources for cyclists the Washington Area Bicycle Association website: waba.org.



Continued on next page

Don't Trash It—Fix It!

In the second half of the 20th Century, with the acceleration of consumer culture, it became more commonplace for Americans to throw away broken household and personal items rather than repairing them. Not only is this an issue of cutting into the household budget, but it also wastes resources and results in appliances, electronics, and clothing taking up space in a landfill.

And yet, many of us do not know how to repair basic items—or we lack the confidence. Walter Mulbry from the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library is trying to fix that problem here in Takoma Park through Fixit clinics, which have been held at the city library throughout the spring and summer. Bolstered by an army of handy volunteers, Mulbry has been staging these free clinics about once a month, based on the availability of his cohort.

“The idea is that [people] not bringing in stuff and dropping it off,” says Mulbry. “They could take it to repair shop. The idea is actually to show them how to do things—so they become fixers themselves. You show ‘em how to repair a lamp so they can repair the next lamp. Once you’ve



Photo by Eric Bond

A Fixit volunteer examines an old Corona typewriter with its owner.

replaced cords or switches or plugs, you’re like, ‘okay, yeah, no big deal.’”

“Now, indeed, it’s a continuum,” says Mulbry.

The assembled volunteers walk in with a variety of fixing expertise, including the ability to work on electronics like stereo systems and computers, small appliances, lamps, bicycles, and furniture. The library has a congregation of sewing machines and skilled tailors who can help repair clothing and other cloth items, while showing the owner how to make such repairs themselves. Even knives and lawn mower blades can be sharpened.

Ahead of a Fixit clinic, people can sign up online at SignUpGenius.com, with information about the item that they are bringing in so that volunteers can prepare. At times, another part is needed, so the Fixit volunteer will help their client order a part and come back to the next clinic.

Information about the Fixit clinics is announced on the Friends of Takoma Park Maryland Library website: ftpml.org. Community members can sign up for the Friends newsletter, which will announce the date and time ahead of the clinic. In addition, the monthly Takoma Park Newsletter will announce the dates on the library page.

Continued from previous page

Walking

Due to the size of Takoma Park, only 2.5 square miles, everything within the city is in walking distance. We encourage residents to walk to where they need to go in Takoma Park or to connect different public transportation routes.

Accessibility is a citywide priority; sidewalks are being built and upgraded for ADA-compliance. Details of ongoing infrastructure work, including sidewalk improvements, can be found at takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory. Information on how to request a sidewalk can be found through the Public Works page at takomaparkmd.org.

A walking map is available for exploring the cultural diversity and unique shopping opportunities of the New Hampshire Avenue corridor at thenewwave.org

Public Transportation

Commuting by public transportation is a great way to get to and from work. Relaxing

on the bus, not having to worry about parking in D.C., saving the wear and tear on your vehicle, or limiting fuel emissions are all great reasons to pick the public option versus driving.

Takoma Park is served by multiple public transportation options, making it easy to get around southern Montgomery County, western Prince George’s County, and the District of Columbia. Bus operators include

- **Metrobus** and Metrorail, provided by WMATA (wmata.com)
- **Ride On**, provided by the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-transit)
- **Shuttle UM**, provided by the University of Maryland (transportation.umd.edu/shuttle-um)

The Takoma Langley Crossroads Transit Center, at New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard, accommodates up to 12,000 daily bus passengers on 11 different bus routes, providing passengers with a waiting area, restrooms, and bus information. Find out more at wmata.com/

service/bus/takoma-langley.cfm.

Electric Vehicles and Plug-In Hybrids

Electric vehicle (EV) adoption is increasing throughout the country and Takoma Park is no exception. Range anxiety is the number one reason people don’t purchase EV’s. Takoma Park is trying to help quell this by providing free charging stations throughout the city. The city currently has 22 public charging stations within 10 miles, including 11 free charging stations). You can find out the locations of charging stations and other EV resources at chargeHub.com.

Charging at home is the most common way that EV owners replenish their battery. Understanding the balance between charging at home and around town can help eliminate range anxiety.

In the market for a new or used EV? There may be some great tax incentives waiting for you! Check out the latest info sheet from the Electric Vehicle Association of Washington DC: evadc.wildapricot.org/.

Police

911 (emergency) • 301-270-1100 (non-emergency)
police@takomaparkmd.gov • takomaparkmd.gov/police
Open 24/7

Whether online, in person, or by phone, the Police Department serves the people of Takoma Park.

Labor Day Closure

The Takoma Park Police Department offices will be closed on Monday, September 2, in observance of Labor Day. However, please remember that police are available 24/7 for emergency services.

School Children and Crossing Guard Safety

Montgomery County Public Schools are back in session on Monday, August 26.

Takoma Park Police remind drivers and residents to be extra vigilant to ensure the safety of our school children and school crossing guards during the school year.

Our crossing guards' primary responsibility is to facilitate the safe crossing of students to and from school each day—in all weather conditions. These crossing guards are trained and certified in traffic and pedestrian safety. Each one wears a highly visible bright yellow reflective safety vest.

Takoma Park Police remind drivers that it is very important to obey the posted speed limit and to pay close attention to their surroundings at all times. Within a school zone, it is especially important to be alert, drive carefully, and follow the directions of the crossing guards.



Photo by Sam Kittner

Safety Tips for Parents, Motorists, and Children

- Expect delays near schools. Know your route, start early, and drive the posted speed limit.
- Motorists not involved in dropping off or picking up students should consider adjusting their route or schedule to avoid arrival and dismissal traffic in front of schools.
- Park only in lawful areas. Parking within 20 feet of a crosswalk is against the law and can obstruct visibility for both pedestrians and motorists.
- Unload school children onto the sidewalk or right side of the vehicle. Unloading school children into a traffic lane could put a child in harm's way.
- Instruct children to remain alert and look left, right, and then left again before crossing the street.
- Pedestrians, do not use a cell phone to talk or text when crossing the street; do not wear headphones or earpods when crossing the street.

The Takoma Park Police Department wishes everyone a successful, happy, and safe school year!

Stay Informed

To receive notifications directly from the police department, register at takomaparkmd.gov/police. Notifications include, but are not limited to crime alerts, traffic, weather, missing persons, lost pets, etc. For more information, contact Cathy Plevy at cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov.

Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back Day October 2024

The Takoma Park Police Department will be participating in the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Nationwide Prescription Drug Take-Back Day in October (date to be determined by the DEA). This campaign gives the public an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs.

Bring your prescriptions to the Takoma Park Police Department, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912.

Collection boxes will be set up in the first floor police lobby of the City building. Prescription, over-the-counter, and pet medications will be accepted. In addition, vape pens and other e-cigarette devices are now accepted BUT only after the batteries are removed from such devices.

Although we continue to participate in this nationwide event, as a reminder, residents looking to dispose of excess and expired prescription and over-the-counter medications can visit the safe and secure permanent drop off location at the City of Takoma Park Police Department.

Drugs can be dropped off with no questions asked. Items that CANNOT be left are liquids, inhalers, aerosol cans, regular household ointments/lotions, needles/sharps and/or thermometers. The Takoma Park Police Department will collect and store all items and then safely dispose of them through accepted practices.

National Faith & Blue

In October, we will hold our 4th Faith & Blue Weekend, a national event with activities in communities across the country that brings together law enforcement and residents to build connections, create mutual understanding, and enhance justice and reconciliation.

WHAT IS IT? National Faith & Blue is a collaborative initiative that builds bridges and breaks down biases through events, activities and outreach amongst law enforcement professionals and the communities they serve.

WHY? National Faith & Blue is based on the premise that strong communities are built on mutual respect and understanding. Law enforcement entities and faith-based organizations are key pillars of the community, and when they work together, neighborhoods thrive.

HOW? National Faith & Blue is an extension of the One Congregation One Precinct initiative (OneCOP), a program of

Movement Forward, Inc., which is a solution-focused, human & civil rights organization based in Atlanta, GA. The OneCOP initiative pairs officers at the beat or precinct level with local houses of worship. Similarly, Faith & Blue is facilitated by law enforcement entities, faith-based organizations and the community.

WHO? Faith & Blue organizers represent every major national law enforcement group and faith tradition in the United States of America. The effort is being co-convened by OneCOP and the United States Department of Justice (USDJ) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) to organize the most collaborative police-community engagement project in recent American history.

WHEN/WHERE? Be on the lookout for our plans for this event!

If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Plevy at cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7142.

Community Events continued from page 2

Sticks and Bars Youth Marimba Ensemble

Friday, October 25, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.

Sticks+Bars Youth Marimba Ensemble is D.C.'s first-and-only African style youth marimba ensemble, where students learn to play marimbas in the traditional southern African style, including music from the African diaspora as well as from other cultures and genres.

Monster Bash

Saturday, October 26, 1 p.m.
Takoma Park Middle School
7611 Piney Branch Road

The Takoma Park Recreation Department staff will kick off the annual Monster Bash at 1 p.m. at Takoma Park Middle School with games and other fun activities, including the annual costume contest. Following a monster parade to Maple Avenue, kids will engage in more games, dancing, and treats. City staff will award costumes in such categories as most original, funniest, and scariest. Due to the nature of this event, walking to and from the event is encouraged. More information at takomaparkmd.gov.

iMusical Improv Musical Performance

Friday, November 15, 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.

The iMusical improv comedy group includes talented performers from across the D.C. area who create a new musical live on the spot based on audience suggestions. The cast has performed at comedy festivals and venues across the D.C. area, including the Kennedy Center.

Takoma Park Annual Gift Fair

Saturday, December 7, noon–4 p.m.
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church
310 Tulip Ave.
Online through New Years at aggw.org

Takoma Park will be the location of an Alternative Gift Fair, organized through Alternative Gifts of Greater Washington (AGGW). In a party atmosphere, connect directly with representatives from different locally run, small, direct-service charities, with approximately 40 different alternative gifts from which to choose. The fair is planned to be held, as usual, at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church (check aggw.org ahead of time to make sure). For information or to volunteer, visit aggw.org.

Pajamarama and Holiday Market

Sunday, December 8
Old Takoma on Carroll Avenue
Roscoe the Rooster crows early at this annual holiday shopping event. Pajama-wearing patrons are rewarded with early morning discounts at participating Takoma businesses (8–11 a.m.). Find unique holiday gifts including home decor, kitchen

items, books, toys, puzzles, games, bikes, plants, pottery, lamps, clothing, shoes, jewelry, beads, pet supplies, baked goods, groceries, and personal care items.

Holiday shopping continues at the Holiday Market at the Takoma Theater at 6833 4th Street in Takoma, D.C. (10 a.m.–3 p.m.). Local artists, makers, and collectors set up outdoors with unique, handmade holiday gifts. More information at mainstreettakoma.org.

Takoma Park Gift Market

Friday, December 13, 5–9 p.m.
201 Ethan Allen Ave.

Celebrate the holiday season under the stars and surrounded by holiday lights at the Takoma Park Gift Market, a curated opportunity to shop small. Enjoy a special evening with a variety of local and handmade gifts, delicious foods, and festive libations. More information at mainstreettakoma.org.

Takoma Cocoa Crawl

Saturday, December 14, 1–4 p.m.
Old Takoma

Enjoy cocoa at area restaurants and cafes during the Takoma Cocoa Crawl! Make one stop or many. Adult versions available too. Businesses will provide single use mugs or to-go cups. Prices and sizes vary by business. Check back for specific offers. More information at mainstreettakoma.org.

Check the monthly Takoma Park Newsletter for more events.



Housing and Community Development
Public Service Announcement

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for each other.

SafeRoutes



www.takomaparkmd.gov/