

Takoma Park city guide

Winter 2024

CLASSES • PROGRAMS • SERVICES • & MORE!

DANCE INTO THE LIGHT



December 21 marks the shortest day of the year and the longest night for Takoma Park and the rest of the northern hemisphere. For the 35th year, the Takoma Park Maryland Library will be celebrating winter solstice with stories, crafts, and folk dancing by the the Rock Creek Morris Women (pictured here at the Takoma Park Folk Festival). Read more on page 13.



takomaparkmd.gov

Holiday Closure Calendar

Holiday

Friday, December 22
City offices and facilities
are closed

Christmas

Monday, December 25
City offices and facilities
are closed.
Yard waste pick-up is cancelled.

New Year

Monday, January 1
City offices and facilities
are closed.
Yard waste pick-up is cancelled.

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Monday, January 15
City offices and facilities
are closed.
Yard waste pick-up is cancelled.

Presidents Day

Monday, February 19
City offices and facilities
are closed.
Yard waste pick-up is cancelled.



Look for this icon
throughout the guide,
which identifies the
City's green initiatives.

Community Events

25th Annual Alternative Gift Fair

Saturday, December 2, noon–4 p.m.
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church
310 Tulip Ave.

Online through January 3 at aggw.org

Alternative Gifts of Greater Washington is thrilled to announce the return of its in-person Alternative Gift Fair at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church gymnasium. Connect directly with representatives from different locally run, small direct service charities with more than 42 different alternative gifts from which to choose. In addition, you can purchase your alternative gifts online through January 3 at aggw.org. For information or to volunteer email aggw.org@gmail.com.

Green Way Reading Series

Sunday, December 3, 5–7 p.m.
People's Book
7014-A Westmoreland Ave.

The Green Way Reading Series is a monthly literary event curated by Elizabeth Bryant and Takoma Park's Poet Laureate Taylor Johnson. Alexis De Veaux and Sokari Ekine will be reading at this event. The series centers on emerging and established poets and artists in interdisciplinary, intergenerational and cross-regional dialogues. We want these programs to encourage growing participation and local engagement in the evolving landscape of contemporary poetry. More information at peoplesbooktakoma.com.

Pajamarama Holiday Market

Sunday, December 3, 8 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Participating Mainstreet Takoma businesses

Takoma Park's Roscoe the Rooster crows for this annual holiday shopping event. Pajama-wearing shoppers are rewarded with early morning discounts

at participating Takoma businesses. Shopping is fueled with coffee, donuts, breakfast sandwiches and huevos rancheros at local restaurants. Holiday shopping continues into the afternoon at the Pajamarama Holiday Market at the Takoma Theater. Local artists, makers, and collectors set up outdoors with unique, handmade holiday gifts. For more information, visit mainstreettakoma.org.

Takoma Park Gift Market

Friday, December 8, 5–9 p.m.
201 Ethan Allen Avenue

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

Chanukkah Storytime

December 10, 9:30–10 a.m.
People's Book
7014-A Westmoreland Ave.

Join Ruth Polk, librarian at Temple Sinai, for a Chanukkah-themed read-aloud! All are welcome! More information at peoplesbooktakoma.com.

Takoma Cocoa Crawl

Saturday, December 16, 1– 4 p.m.
Various locations

Enjoy cocoa at area restaurants and cafes during the Takoma Cocoa Crawl. Make one stop or many. Businesses will provide single use mugs or to-go cups. Prices and sizes vary by business. For more information, visit mainstreettakoma.org

Continued on Page 5

Check the City of Takoma Park website and the monthly Newsletter for more events.

TAKOMAPARK ALERT

WEATHER • EMERGENCY INFO • TRAFFIC

www.takomaparkmd.gov/alert

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

What's Inside

City Facilities

Community Center	14
Book an Event	15
Recreation Center	16
Parks	17

City Services

City Council	4
City Department Directory	6-8
City TV	9
Takoma Park Arts	10-11
Library	12-13
City Facilities	14-17
Recreation Department	18-34
Tots	19
Youth	20-21
Teens	22-23
Adults	24-27
55+	28-30
Special Events	31
Spotlight	32
Registration and Policies	33
Partners	34
Housing & Community Development	35-36
Public Works	37
Police	38-39
City Careers	40

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 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. Elections take place in November of every even-numbered year.



Mayor Talisha Searcy
talishas@takomaparkmd.gov



Council -Ward 1
Shana Fulcher
shanaf@takomaparkmd.gov



Council -Ward 2
Cindy Dyballa
cindydy@takomaparkmd.gov



Council -Ward 3
Randy Gibson
randallg@takomaparkmd.gov



Council -Ward 4
Terry J. Seamens
terrys@takomaparkmd.gov



Council -Ward 5
Cara Honzak
carah@takomaparkmd.gov



Council -Ward 6
Jason Small
jasons@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. At the time of printing, David Eubanks serves as the acting city manager and the city council is reviewing applicants for a new city manager, who should step into the position in early 2024.

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.

Community Events

Continued from Page 2

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Monday, January 15

The Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service is the only federal holiday designated to encourage people to volunteer and give back to their communities. Check the January newsletter and the city website for a list of opportunities.

Winter Solstice Celebration, featuring Rock Creek Morris Women

Thursday, December 21, 6:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Maryland Library
7505 New Hampshire Ave.

Join us on Thursday, December 21 at 6:30 for a Winter Solstice celebration! The Rock Creek Morris Women dancers will begin their performance at 7:00. We will also have a “campfire” themed craft, refreshments, and storytelling from the far north. For more information, visit takomapark.info/library.

Mid-Winter Play Day

Sunday, February 11, 1–4 p.m.

Come out for a day of play. There will be face painting, giant chess, indoor bocce, dress-up, cookie decorations, and much more. Visit letsplayamerica.org for more information.

Takoma Park Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 30, 10 a.m.
Ed Wilhelm Field

Each Spring the Takoma Park Recreation Department hosts an egg hunt at Ed Wilhelm Field (behind Piney Branch Elementary School). This free event is always an egg-citing time! Egg Hunt age categories include 2 and younger, 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8. Don't forget to bring your basket to collect all the eggs. Each age group will have one golden egg hidden among the eggs. We will have games, crafts, and a special visit from Mr. Bunny.

ONGOING

Takoma Park Farmers Market

Every Sunday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
6931 Laurel Ave.

Come out every Sunday behind the



Kids of all ages have fun at the Midwinter Playday on February 11. Check letsplayamerica.org for more information.

shops on Laurel Ave. for a mix of 25 vendors with seasonal produce, pasture raised meat and eggs, artisan cheese, grains, bread, baked goods, and more. Find breakfast and lunch at the market including empanadas, egg sandwiches, burgers, pastries, and more.

Historic Takoma Reading Room

Sundays (first and third)
7328 Carroll Ave.

Visitors will have access to reference books on Takoma and Maryland history, the collection of Takoma Voices and City newsletters, historical journals, and more. Historic Takoma is also hosting the Maryland Reference Collection of the Takoma Park Maryland Library during the library's renovation. Historic Takoma volunteers will be available to answer questions about the collections and Historic Takoma. Reading Room hours will be 1–4 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of each month. historictakoma.org

Takoma Spark Open Mic

Tuesdays, 7–9:30 p.m.
School of Musical Traditions
7112 Willow Ave.

Hosted by Rob Hinkal of ilyAIMY and sponsored by Institute of Musical Traditions. Signup starts at 6 p.m.

Performance slots are two songs or 10 minutes. All musical genres, poetry & all abilities/ages welcome. No amps or drum kits. The evening is also live-streamed on Rob's Open Mics Facebook and YouTube channels. No refreshments on site, but you are welcome to bring in your own food and non-alcoholic beverages (please support our local restaurants!). For updates, follow Rob's Open Mics on Facebook, or visit ilyaimy.com/robsoopenmics.

Correspond with Incarcerated Artists

The first and third Monday of each month, 6–8 p.m.
7112 Willow Ave.

Join The Justice Arts Coalition in gathering bi-monthly to respond to recently received art and mail from incarcerated artists in JAC's network. All materials, directions for the letters, and music will be provided. Pre-registration encouraged. Reach out to ava@thejusticeartscoalition.org with any questions.

Takoma Jazz

Saturdays, 7–10 p.m.
Takoma Station Tavern
6914 4th St NW

Weekly jazz at Takoma Station Tavern hosted by Jazz Kitchen Productions. For the schedule, check jkproductions.org.

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, The Takoma Insider- digital news, and partner with City TV and 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.

Payment of City Fees

The Finance Department collects payments for the following fees:

- Landlord Registration and Licensing
- Parking Fines
- Recreation Programs

Online Payment

Payments associated with a City-issued invoice may be made online or by phone by Visa, Mastercard, and Discover. A convenience fee of approximately 3% or \$1.50, whichever is greater, will be charged. E-check transaction users will have a \$1.50 convenience fee charged.

Takoma Park residents have the option to pay the following fees online:

- Landlord Registration and Licensing
- Parking Fines
- Recreation Programs

Phone Payment

Please call 301-891-7212 to talk to one of the finance staff if you wish to make a payment by credit card.

By Mail

Finance Department, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, 3rd Floor
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Passport Services

Passport Services are available by appointment only Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center on the second floor. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 301-891-7100. Passport service hours are subject to change without notice. Whenever possible, office closures will be announced on Facebook, 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.
- Effective with reopening post-COVID, 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



City Department Directory

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. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday

Trash Carts and Recycling Containers



Trash carts are available for sale. Purchase a 96-gallon trash carts for \$61.41 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 through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 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, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday. 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 Hours: Monday - Thursday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday - Sunday 12 – 6 p.m.

Computer Center Hours: Monday - Thursday 12 – 8 p.m.
Friday - Sunday 12 – 6 p.m.

** The Recreation office and the Library are located at a temporary location on New Hampshire Ave. while the Library and sections of the Community Center on Maple Avenue undergo renovation.*

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 16 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 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 WOWD-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.



City TV interviewing Bike to School Day participants.

TAKOMA PARK ARTS

301-891-7119 • arts@takomaparkmd.gov • takomaparkmd.gov/arts

The Possibilities of Language and Emotion

A conversation with Taylor Johnson, Takoma Park Poet Laureate

What is a poet laureate?

My understanding is that it is a position in which I can expand opportunities for people to engage with poetry and poems around the city.

In the last year I've hosted the poetry readings at the community center that were selected by the previous laureate, Kathleen O'Toole. And then my wife [Elizabeth Bryant] and I started this reading series at People's Book called The Green Way Reading Series.

I've also done some work with the elementary schools as well as updating the poem signs around town that Merrill Leffler and the Friends at the Takoma Park Maryland Library installed during his tenure as poet laureate. The [new] poems from those signs are all from folks who live around the area. I've gotten some local poets to write six new poems that'll be going up in the downtown area, hopefully before the new year.

Why is poetry important?

Poetry can distill emotions. It can get to the heart of feeling—to be inside of a feeling and explode it into all its possibilities. And it can hold multiple ideas, points of view in relation with language. What poetry does so well is that it uses language as material in the same way that a painter uses paint and canvas. Language is malleable, shaped, and formed into newness.



Taylor Johnson

How did you come to poetry?

I started writing, probably, when I was 15. I participated in youth programs in D.C. with the Hurston/Wright Foundation—and then with some other folks who worked for organizations that came together to create the D.C. Youth Slam Poetry Team. Now, I'm not a slam poet by any means, but at that time, that was one avenue. I was able to participate in the culture of poetry and poemymaking.

I remember just learning about the various conglomerations of Black people who had gathered around language across time, and that has always been very interesting to me. Growing up in this area and being within a culture of people who

are storytellers, people who produce language idiosyncratically to get various messages across, I've always been drawn to language.

And I read a lot and was attracted to the poetry of John Donne, probably when I was 15. He was a contemporary of Shakespeare, a metaphysical poet. And then I have just been with it since then.

Which poets meant something to you?

John Donne and William Shakespeare, for sure. Gwendolyn Brooks was a poet who I liked a lot when I was younger. In my first year of college, I really got into Carl Phillips, Dawn Lundy Martin, Terrance Hayes, Charles Wright, Gertrude Stein. Those are the people who shaped me.

How do you go about writing a poem?

With the book that I published in 2020, *Inheritance*, because it was my first book, my process for writing those poems was not so nailed down. A lot of the poems in that book were formed from kinetic moments of walking in D.C. or riding the bus or being in another activity like cooking or cleaning and something will come to me that is a combination of language.

And now I find myself in a bit of different spot in which I have to set up the boundaries and the discipline by which language comes to me. I am always open to it, and I think being open to it means reading or a lot of deep contemplation

Takoma Park Arts

about two different things. For instance, I'm thinking a lot right now about John Keats poem "Ode on a Grecian Urn," and I'm thinking of it in relation to the potter and poet David Drake, who was an enslaved artist from South Carolina. And so I think holding things in my mind that might not meet up temporarily, chronologically kind of helps me elicit new language.

How does a poem change when you read it aloud?

What I'll say is that, as someone who writes but also likes to say my poems out loud, when I read a poem, I try to put myself back in the moment of composition, if that makes sense. So all the things that were in my mind and in my body in a way, I try to be with those as I'm reading the poem. And I find that what feels important, at least for my recitation, and this is probably different for other poets, is to create a world of sound that is immersive and that is uninterrupted.

And I think that good poetry can put you in that mode. I know the poet Mary Ruel does that really successfully. And there are a bunch of others, Amiri Baraka for instance, where not only is the language important, but it's like the sonic experience that you're having is really key to the full experience of the moment, if that makes sense.

Tell me about the Green Way Reading Series.

The Green Way Reading Series is something that my wife and I founded in July, in which we partnered with People's Books [the newish bookstore on Westmoreland Avenue]. We invite three local poets, usually of different generations or different styles of poetry to come together, read, and then have a brief discussion at the end. It's been kind of incredible. So the next reading is on December 3 at 5 p.m. The reading starts at 5:30. Alexis De Veaux and Sokari Ekine will be reading.

Why is it important for a city like Takoma Park? To have a poet laureate

Takoma Park is really special. Being from this area and being in and out of this city for my whole life, coming to readings over here, or just engaging with the natural environment that's over here via the trails when I was younger and now living here as an adult, this city has a lot to offer the rest of the world in terms of how different kinds of people can live side-by-side.

And I think that [a poet laureate] can speak on what it means for all these people to come together in this place in a harmonious way and in a way that is people are able to see each other as equal, which is kind of rare, at least in America

right now.

So I really value this position a lot. It's an interesting place to hold it because we are backed up against the capital of this nation. And I think it's always been interesting to write with that in mind that this area has a lot to say about the rest of the world and how the world can work.

Established in 2005, the Takoma Park Poet Laureate program is organized by the City's Arts and Humanities Division to honor the achievements of a local poet who serves as the city's poetry ambassador.

Taylor Johnson was appointed to a three-year term in 2022. He is the author of Inheritance, which won the Norma Farber First Book Award from the Poetry Society of America. He also has received fellowships from Cave Canem, the Nicholson Project, Callaloo, and other organizations. He previously served as the inaugural poet in residence at the Guggenheim Museum in New York City.

In recognition of his work as Takoma Park Poet Laureate, Taylor Johnson has received a \$50,000 fellowship award from the Academy of American Poets. The 2023 awards honor 23 poets laureate from states and cities across the country.

Green Way Reading Series

December 3, 5–7
People's Book
7014-A Westmoreland Ave.

The Green Way Reading Series is a monthly literary event curated by Elizabeth Bryant and Takoma Park's Poet Laureate Taylor Johnson. Alexis De Veaux and Sokari Ekine will be reading on December 3.

Alexis De Veaux is one of a stellar list of American writers highlighted by LIT CITY, a public art initiative of banners bearing their names and images in downtown Buffalo, New York, in recognition of the city's renowned literary legacy. Cofounder of the Center for Poetic Healing, a project of Lyrical Democracies (with Kathy Engel), and of the Flamboyant Ladies Theatre Company (with Gwendolen Hardwick), Alexis De Veaux is a black queer



Alexis De Veaux

feminist independent scholar. Further information is available on her author website, alexisdeveaux.com.

Sokari Ekine is a Nigerian British queer feminist artist and visual scholar who has worked and lived in Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and the United States. An artist of considerable longevity, Sokari's work focuses on decolonization, African spiritual practices, migration, and queer and trans bodies in black diasporas.



Sokari Ekine

The Green Way Reading Series welcomes emerging and established poets and artists in interdisciplinary, intergenerational and cross-regional dialogues. We want these programs to encourage growing participation and local engagement in the evolving landscape of contemporary poetry. More information at peoplesbooktakoma.com.

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 Ave., in the Hampshire Place shopping center. This will be the library location 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 with fortnightly news 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.–8 p.m.

Friday through Sunday, noon–6 p.m.

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

- January 1: New Year's Day
- January 14 and 15: Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday
- February 18 and 19: George Washington's Birthday (Presidents Day)

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

Computer Center

The Computer Center staff offers one-on-one coaching in computer skills for everyone. If you are interested in learning the basics of using the internet, setting up email, editing photos, even creating a website or sharing videos, call the Library and ask for a member of the Computer Center staff to set up a time to come in and learn. The Computer Center has the same hours as the Library, Monday–Thursday 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Friday–Sunday, noon–6 p.m.



Regular children's programs

Neighborhood Circle Time. Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. On 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.—now in-person at the interim library!

Sketch Club. Thursdays, 4–5:30 p.m.

Chess for Kids. Sundays, 11 a.m.

Kids Art, LEGO Fun. Once a month on Sundays—check the calendar!



Regular adult programs

Crochet and Cozies. Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Join us for crochet and cozy mysteries. Bring your hooks and yarn or use the ones we have. Beginners and all skill levels are welcome, as well as knitters and loom knitters.

Check our website for updates on our regular Children's and Young Adults Programs.

Come Celebrate the Winter Solstice

By Sean Gossard

The days continue to get shorter and darker, but soon we'll see the symbolic rebirth of the sun as the Earth's north pole begins to tilt once again toward the center of our solar system.

Thursday, December 21, marks the winter solstice, the day of the year with the least sunlight and longest period of northern hemisphere darkness. Historically, the day is also marked by festivals and dances toasting the gradual return of daylight hours.

Winter solstice celebrations date as far back as the Neolithic period. Sites such as Stonehenge in England align with the sunset on the winter solstice and the sunrise on the summer solstice.

More traditional Christmas rituals, including the burning of a yule log and even the giving of gifts, can trace roots back to winter solstice celebrations.

This year to mark the occasion, as it has been done for the past 35 years, the Takoma Park Maryland Library will be holding its own solstice celebration. The Library will be featuring the Rock Creek Morris Women, presenting a program of traditional dances, in addition to a storyteller and kids crafts.

The Rock Creek Morris Women is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the teaching, enjoyment, performance, and continuing evolution of English Morris dancing—a lively, joyful folk dance genre predating the 15th century—according to the group's website.

"There's a lot of thoughts and opinions on the origins of Morris dancing and how long it's been around," says Liz Spilsbury, the leader of the Rock Creek Morris Women. "We do know the earliest written mention is from the 1400s. It was also mentioned in some of Shakespeare's writing. The dancing



The Rock Creek Morris Women will be at the library on December 21 to celebrate our return to light.



we do started with the folk revival of the mid-20th century."

The Rock Creek Morris Women began in 1979 and is the sister team to the Foggy Bottom Morris Dancers. They perform around D.C., Maryland, and Virginia at events like the Southern Maryland Celtic Festival, the Washington Folk Festival,

the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, and the Takoma Park Folk Festival.

"We joke that we're the only Morris team with a national park named after us," Spilsbury says.

The Rock Creek Morris Women perform a version of the dance called Cotswold Morris, which originated in the English villages of Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, and Warwickshire and is characterized by with handkerchiefs and sticks, often in costumes with ribbons, waistcoats, and decorated hats, according to The

Morris Federation.

"Most of the dances we do are done by six dancers," says Spilsbury. "We have bell pads on our shins, so there is a musical element. There's a lot of jumping. It's a good way to keep the body moving."

As for the Solstice connection, Spilsbury says that Morris dancing has traditionally been used to mark the changing of the seasons.

"People see it having a pastoral or seasonal connection," Spilsbury says. "One of our biggest events is May Day or the beginning of the summer. We want to carry that tradition forward."

For more information on the Rock Creek Morris Women, visit rockcreekmorris.org.

The Takoma Park Maryland Library's celebrations will begin on Thursday, December 21, at 6:30 p.m. at its temporary location at 7505 New Hampshire Ave., Suite 205. There will be light snacks and refreshments along with storytelling, dancing, and craft projects for all ages.

Takoma Park Community Center/ Sam Abbott Citizens' Center

Open During
Library
Construction!

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.

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

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

Game Room

- 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 and Thursdays, 9–4 p.m. You must call first for an appointment: 301-891-7100. The service is free for city residents.

Passport Service

Passport Service is available at the Takoma Park Community Center. 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 Mon. - Thurs. 10:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Fri. 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 No. 2011-1 (PDF) for 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.

Heffner Park Community Center

Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Takoma Park Recreation Center

- Call for availability: 301-891-7286
- See page 16 for prices

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

City of Takoma Park rental policy and procedures are guided by the Council approved Administrative Regulations for Facilities that can be found on the City's website (takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/rental-requests/). Updates to the Administrative Regulations are expected to be coming soon. For parties over 20 people, please contact Recreation staff prior to making your request.



Library construction may limit room availability

Auditorium

Capacity 154

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 wheel chairs. 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, 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

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

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

\$75 refundable deposit required for Heffner Park Community Center.

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; 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.

** \$75 security deposit required.*

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	Dorothy's Woods Woodland & Cirle Ave. 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

FAQs

- In order to secure a park pavilion, it is highly recommended to have a permit. (See page 15).
- Moon bounces are not permitted on City property.
- Permits are honored rain or shine, with no refunds/reschedules.
- To reserve a pavilion, see "Book Your Next Event with Us" on page 15.
- 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.
301-891-7290
recreation@takomaparkmd.gov
takomaparkmd.gov/recreation

*Winter
Registration Opens:
12/15 for City Residents
12/8 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.



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.

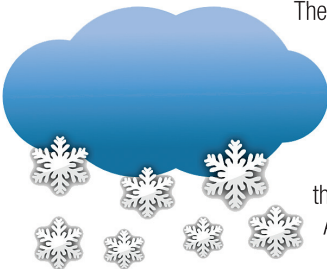
A life-sized statue of Roscoe the Rooster, crafted by local artist Norman Greene, stands on a pedestal in front of the clock tower in the center of downtown Takoma Park.

Roscoe makes special appearances throughout this section of the City Guide.

Rental Requests

For more information about local parks and room rentals, see pages 15-17. Availability is limited during construction.

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 (www.takomaparkmd.gov/alert); Be sure to select "Local Recreation Program Updates," "Childcare," and/or any other interested area for updated activity information through the page above; or call the Recreation Department's Inclement Weather Line (301-891-7101 x5605). 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. Before and After Care programs follow the Montgomery County Public Schools declarations. If there is a 2-hour delay in the morning, Before Care starts at 9:00 a.m.

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:
Scholarship Awardees: 12/8
TP Residents: 12/15

Tots Newborn-5



DANCE

Combo Tot Dance

Fun and energizing class for your little ones. This is the introductory foundational class consisting of rhythmic movements into basic tumbling and various styles of dance. Jam-packed with games and toys—your little ones won't even realize they are learning to dance. Instructor: Dance Solutions

Takoma Park Community Center
(Dance Studio)
7500 Maple Ave.
Ages 3–5
8-week session

Sundays, 12:15–1 p.m.
January 7–February 25
Resident: \$125 / nonresident: \$145

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.
January 27–March 2
Resident: \$60 / nonresident: \$70



Youth

5-12 years

Fall
Registration Opens:
Scholarship Awardees: 12/8
TP Residents: 12/15



ART

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

6-week sessions

Mondays, 4–5 p.m.

Session 1: January 8–February 12

Session 2: February 26–April 1

Wednesdays, 4–5 p.m.

Session 1: January 10–February 14

Session 2: February 28–April 3

Fridays, 4–5 p.m.

Session 1: January 26–March 1

Session 2: February 23 - March 29

Resident: \$170 / nonresident: \$190

Materials fee: \$25



CAMPS

Fundamentally Sound

Spring Break Basketball Camp

This week-long sports camp will focus on the skills needed to elevate your performance. By the end of the camp you will understand the fundamentals of the game and how to apply them in game situations. Prior basketball experience is not required, just a good attitude! Participants should bring a non-perishable lunch and water bottle. Additional paperwork required prior to the start of camp.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 6–12

1-week session

Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

March 25–March 29

Resident: \$220 / nonresident: \$250

Beforecare: 7-9 a.m.

Aftercare: 4-6 p.m.

Resident: \$45 / nonresident: \$55 each

Spring Break Camp: LEGOmania

Build your own creations in a fun and imaginative environment. Combining fun team building and memory making with discovery and innovation! Participants must bring a lunch, snacks, and a labeled water bottle. Registration is required. Space is limited, so sign up early. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of camp.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.

Ages 6–12

1-week session

Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

March 25–March 29

Resident: \$150 / nonresident: \$170

Beforecare: 7–9 a.m.

Aftercare: 4–6 p.m.

Resident: \$45 / nonresident: \$55 each

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 more. Bring your friends and meet new ones.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 5–12

First and third Fridays, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

January 5, January 19, February 2,

February 16, March 1, and March 15

Free with membership

CAMP INFORMATION

Campers must bring a lunch, snacks, and labeled water bottle. Registration is required. Space is limited, so sign up early. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of camp. Beforecare and aftercare are available for an additional fee.

Recreation: Youth

EXTENDED CARE

Fun Day Trips

Fun Days are 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, these are opportunities for socializing, unwinding, and releasing energy. Participants must bring a lunch, snacks, and a labeled water bottle. Activities and performers are subject to change. Registration is required. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of the program.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.
Grades K–5

Single Day Trips, 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Monday, January 29: National Children's Museum

Wednesday, April 10: National Zoo

Monday, April 22: Rollingcrest Chillum Splash Pool

Resident: \$55 / nonresident: \$65 per day



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.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 6–12

8-week session

Saturdays, 12–1 p.m.

January 27–March 16

Resident: \$100 / nonresident: \$110

2024 TPRD Summer Camp Sneak Peek

The Takoma Park Recreation Department offers the traditional range of summer camp activities designed to enhance your child's summer and create lasting memories. The official Summer Camp Guide will be out in February! Join us for a summer of fun, creativity & adventures!

- Camp Takoma, 8-weeks
- New Ave Adventure Camp, 8-weeks
- Just for Teens, 4-weeks
- Specialty Camps: Dance, Arts, Theater

Camp registration begins online and in person at 9 a.m. on the following dates:

- February 14 - Current Scholarship Awardees*
- February 21 - Takoma Park Residents
- February 28 - Non-Residents



Time to Renew

* Scholarships are available to City of Takoma Park residents who qualify. Applications must be renewed each calendar year. Applications are available at the Recreation Department office or online at takomaparkmd.gov/recscholarship.

Teens

13-17 years

Fall
Registration Opens:
Scholarship Awardees: 12/8
TP Residents: 12/15



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 paid directly to the instructor must be made 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: January 9-February 13

Session 2: March 5-April 9

Thursdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Session 1: January 11-February 15

Session 2: March 7-April 11

Resident: \$180 / nonresident: \$200

Materials fee: \$20

explore other types of dance such as stepping and can make their own routines.

Takoma Park Middle School

(Gymnasium)

7611 Piney Branch Rd.

Grades 6-8

8-week session

Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

January 17-March 6

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
7400 Maple Ave.

(Auditorium)

Ages 10-17

4-week sessions

Fridays, 4-6 p.m.

Session 1: January 12-February 2

Session 2: February 9-March 1

Resident: \$60 / nonresident: \$70

On Stage Acting: Scene Study

Jump into a different world by learning how to transform into a different character in a scene. Students will learn and apply acting concepts from Konstantin Stanislavski and Uta Hagen in order to build a believable character in scene work. In each class, we will warm up together, play some theatre games, experiment with acting techniques, and rehearse scenes that are chosen from provided materials. All scenes are from Broadway and off Broadway plays as well as films and television shows. Students will perform their scenes in the final class -- family are invited to attend. 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 due to instructor on first day of class. Instructor: Gretchen Weigel

Takoma Park Community Center
(Auditorium)

7500 Maple Ave.

9-week session

Mondays, 4-5:15 p.m.

January 15-March 11

Resident: \$225 / nonresident: \$255

Materials fee: \$10

DANCE

Afterschool Hip Hop 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

Recreation: Teens

Teen Playwrights

Are you interested in theater and/or Broadway? Have you ever wondered how such a beautiful, large production such as Lion King, Romeo and Juliet, or Hamilton are made? Journey into playwriting to learn all about how these productions come to life. Students will be led by a professional theater artist through an interactive playwriting process, including but not limited to developing conflict, creating characters, revision, and production. Instructor: Young Playwright's Theater

Takoma Park Community Center
(Hydrangea Room)
7500 Maple Ave.
Grades 6–12
8-week session
Tuesdays, 4–5:30 p.m.
January 30–March 21
Free

DROP-IN

Teen Night

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

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 12–16
6-week session
Second and fourth Fridays, 6:30–8:45 p.m.
January 12, January 26, February 9,
February 23, March 8, and March 22
Free

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

2024 Summer Youth Employment (SYEP) Youth Interest Meeting

Does your teen need of a summer job? The purpose of this program is to provide young people with a summer-long adventure that is more than just a job, but a true learning experience. Parents and teens will need to come to the Interest Meeting to learn more about this 8-week program which will begin June 24 and

conclude August 17. Must be a Takoma Park resident to participate. Must be 16 years old by June 1.

Takoma Park Community Center
(Azalea Room)
7500 Maple Ave.
Ages 16–20
Wednesday, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
February 21
Free

E-sports Club

Take your gaming to the next level! At our E-sports Club, students will have the opportunity to enhance gaming skills and learn all about the world of competitive gaming while having fun with their peers. Space is limited, so register today!

Takoma Park Community Center
(Hydrangea Room)
7500 Maple Ave.
Grades 6–12
8-week session
Wednesdays, 3:30–5 p.m.
February 7– March 27
Free

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. Class will occur on Mondays, 6–7 p.m. A Zoom Link will be provided upon registration. Instructor: Tyronda Boone of Zoey & Zander

Virtual
Grades 6–12
8-week session
Mondays, 6–7 p.m.
January 22–March 11
Free



TRIPS

Teen Trip: Monster Mini Golf

School's out early, so we're going out to have fun! The Teen Program will be going to Monster Mini Golf in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Teens will be able to enjoy glowing mini golf, a laser maze, and even mini bowling! Food will not be provided, so teens will need to pack a bagged lunch. There are also nearby restaurants if purchasing lunch is preferred. Teens will meet in the Teen Lounge at 1 p.m.; the bus will be departing at 1:30 p.m. sharp, so please be on time! Space is limited, register today. MUST be enrolled by Wednesday, February 28, no exceptions!

Takoma Park Community Center
(Meet in the Teen Lounge)
7500 Maple Ave.
Grades 6–12
Friday, March 1, 1–6 p.m.
Resident: \$20 / nonresident: \$30

Teen Spring Break Trip: Arcade

Join the Teen Program for a day of arcade fun at Dave & Buster's in Gaithersburg, Maryland! Teens will be able to enjoy various arcade games and maybe win a few prizes! Must bring a bagged lunch and/or spending money. Teens will meet in the Teen Lounge at the Takoma Park Community Center at 11:30 a.m. The bus will be departing at 11:45 a.m., so be sure to be on time! MUST be registered by Monday, March 25. No exceptions!

Takoma Park Community Center
(Meet in: Teen Lounge)
7500 Maple Ave.
Grades 6–12
Wednesday, March 27
11:30 a.m.–4 p.m.
Resident: \$20 / nonresident: \$30

Adults

16+ years

Fall
Registration Opens:
Scholarship Awardees: 12/8
TP Residents: 12/15



ART

Ceramics: Clay in the Studio

A great class for homeschoolers, preschoolers (with caregiver present), and people with flexible schedules! This class focuses on hand-building techniques, including pinch, coil, and slab construction, as well as surface treatment and glazing. Students can create functional items as well as sculptures. Dream something up and try it out in the studio. Experienced potters may use the studio's electric wheels to pursue independent projects. Registration in Wednesday class includes studio time on some Fridays, 12:30–1 p.m. A \$35 materials fee is due to the instructor on the first day of class. Instructor: Caroline MacKinnon

Takoma Park Community Center
(Art Studio)

7500 Maple Ave.

Ages 4 and up

6-week session

Wednesdays, 1–3 p.m.

Session 1: January 10–February 14

Session 2: February 28–April 3

Resident: \$180 / nonresident: \$200

Materials fee: \$35

Ceramics: Hand-building and 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. Registration for Monday's class includes studio time on most Fridays, 1–1:30 pm. Instructor: Caroline MacKinnon

Takoma Park Community Center

(Art Studio)

7500 Maple Ave.

Ages 16 and up

6-week sessions

Mondays, 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Session 1: January 8–February 12

Session 2: February 26–April 1

Resident: \$180 / nonresident: \$200

Materials fee: \$35

Ceramics - Wheel Throwing

In this class we will learn the basic skills involved in creating functional forms on the potter's wheel. Centering, pulling, collaring, trimming, and glazing will all be covered. While our focus is on the basic forms cups, bowls, and plates an experimental and lively approach to the work is encouraged. No experience is required, students at an intermediate level are also welcome. A materials fee will cover one bag of clay, glazes, and firing. A materials fee of \$40 is due to the instructor on the first day of class.

Instructor: Leslie Milofsky

Takoma Park Community Center

(Art Studio)

7500 Maple Ave.

Ages 16 and up

6-week session

Wednesdays, 6:30–9 p.m.

January 24–February 28

Resident: \$150 / nonresident: \$170

Materials fee: \$40



Evening Drawing

The practice of drawing can be both relaxing and enriching. Participants in this class will draw with black and white and color media, such as charcoal, oil and chalk pastel, pen and ink, and colored pencils. Students will be supported by weekly lessons, with demos, involving proportion and perspective, ongoing feedback, and critique. Techniques such as creative cropping, expressive mark making, and exploration into limited value or color key will be discussed. Personal creativity will be encouraged. Come join

Recreation: Adults

the fun and camaraderie of drawing together, and develop a practice that will enhance your life. Beginning-to-advanced students welcome. Paper and drawing materials will be available for the \$20 materials fee due on the first day of class.

Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman

Takoma Park Community Center
(Art Studio)

7500 Maple Ave.

Ages 18 and up

6-week sessions

Thursdays, 6:30-9 p.m.

Session 1: January 11–February 15

Session 2: March 7–April 11

Resident: \$230 / nonresident: \$260

Materials fee: \$20



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

Ages 16 and up

9-week session

Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.

January 3–February 28

Resident: \$95 / nonresident: \$105

FITNESS

Boot Camp

A total body program that includes a circuit of drills such as jumping jacks, running, push-ups, squats, crunches, and weight training. A challenging workout within a quick hour. Students are required to bring their own mat. Instructor: Jeremy Sherron

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 16 and up

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Session 1 (7 weeks): January 16–February 29

Resident: \$105 / nonresident: \$125

Session 2 (4 weeks): March 5–March 28

Resident: \$65 / nonresident: \$75

Drop-in: \$10

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 will 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: Jill Skillcorn

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Back Room)

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 16 and up

6-week session

Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.

January 27–March 2

Resident: \$60 / nonresident: \$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 handweights (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

Ages 18 and up

13-week session

Saturdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

January 6–March 30

Resident: \$6 / nonresident: \$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

Recreation: Adults

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

Takoma Park Community Center
(Dance Studio)
7500 Maple Ave.
16-week session
Wednesdays, 6–7:30 p.m.
January 3–April 17
Resident: \$270 / nonresident: \$300
Drop-in: \$20

Ker De Zuri DanXercise Class- Afro Beat

We are a contemporary Afro Dance company specializing in African dancing. Zuri Sana'a DanXercise's mission is to bring you joy and memories through the art of dance. Zuri Sana'a DanXercise combines hip hop, salsa, dancehall, contemporary, and African dance moves within our choreography to create a memorable workout experience. Our moves are feasible and suitable for all ages. Participants will be able to shred calories and learn fun choreography all in one class. Instructor: Khady N'Diaye

Takoma Park Community Center
(Dance Studio)
7500 Maple Ave.
10-week session
Thursdays, 7–8 p.m.
January 3–March 28
Resident: \$60 / nonresident: \$70

Zumba New Ave.

Come out and enjoy an hour of Zumba, Saturday mornings, 9–10 a.m. 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 session
Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.
January 27–March 2
Resident: \$60 / nonresident: \$70
Drop-in: \$12



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
13-week session
Mondays and Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.
January 3–March 27
Free with membership

SPORTS

2024 Adult Softball League

The Takoma Park Adult Softball League is a fun and exciting recreational program

for competitive adults of all skill levels. Games will be played on Sundays. Team registrations must contain 50% of Takoma Park residents to qualify for the resident team fee. Roster limit: 15. All games are double headers (8 weeks).

Various Local Fields
Ages 16 and up
8-week season
Sundays, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
April 7–June 9
(No Games: May 12 and 26)
Resident: \$700 / nonresident: \$800

2024 Adult Softball League - Free Agent Waitlist

Individual participants can register for this activity and be placed on a waiting list and contacted if space becomes available on a team. If space becomes available on a team, you will be responsible to pay your registration and any other associated fees to that team. * Spaces not guaranteed

Adult Drop In Pickleball

Pickleball Open Play. Join other new players for pickleball practice and play. This activity is geared toward beginners. Two courts and limited paddles available. This is a drop-in program. 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, you can just play! That is the beauty of drop-in play.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 16 and up
8-week session
Mondays, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
January 22–March 18
Resident: \$20 / nonresidents: \$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:
Scholarship Awardees: 12/8
TP Residents: 12/15



ART

Arts and Crafts with Alice

Get creative. This 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
3-week session
Wednesdays, 10–11 a.m.
January 17, February 21, March 20
\$6

DANCE

Hip Hop Move N' Groove

New
Class

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
(Back Room)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
8-week session
Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
January 18–March 7
\$6

SENIORS ARE ADULTS TOO!

Don't forget to check out the Adult class offerings on pages 24-26 for more options.

*Ask us about scholarship opportunities.

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. If the option you would like is full, select the waiting list. Instructor: Barbara Brown

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 55 and up
10-week sessions
Tuesdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
January 9–March 12
Wednesdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
January 10–March 13
\$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,



Recreation: 55+

range of motion, and coordination. Choose which day of the week you would like to attend in-person class, or select virtual. If the option you would like is full, select the waiting list. Instructor: Yesika Young

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 55 and up

10-week sessions

Wednesdays, 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

January 10–March 13

Fridays, 10–11 a.m. (in person or virtual)

January 12–March 15

\$6



DROP-IN

Bingo

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

Takoma Park Library

7505 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 55 and up

Tuesdays, 12–2 p.m.

January 23, February 27, March 26

Free

Game Room Open Play

The Game Room is available for adults age 55 and up to play pool, table tennis, basketball arcade, and other active games. The game room is a great place to join friends for lively conversation and just to “hang out” before, in-between and after classes during the day. Very limited parking available. NOTE: Library and Community Center renovations may impact this class/program in the future. Classes could be moved to another

location, become virtual or be postponed depending on space availability.

Takoma Park Community Center
(Game Room)

7500 Maple Ave.

Ages 55 and up

Monday–Friday: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

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. This class has a new starting time of 9:00 a.m. Instructor: Adriene Buist

Virtual

Ages 55 and up

10-week session

Tuesdays, 9–10 a.m.

January 9–March 12

\$6

Foundational Fitness 55+



Foundational Fitness for adults ages 55 and older is designed to improve health with focus on muscular strength, endurance, flexibility, balance, and coordination, using a high-back chair, light handweights and/or resistance tubes. Have towel and water nearby. Registration is required for this virtual Zoom class. Link provided in registration receipt. Instructor: Michael Williams

Virtual

Ages 55 and up

10-week session

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10–11 a.m.

January 9–March 14

\$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



Recreation: 55+

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Back Room)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
10-week session
Thursdays, 10–11 a.m.
January 11–March 14
\$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
10 Week Session
Tuesdays, 1:15-2:15 p.m.
January 9-March 12
\$6

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. Instructor: Master Robert Thompson

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Back Room)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
10-week session
Tuesdays, 12–1 p.m.
January 9–March 12
\$6

Walking Group

Don't worry about the weather outside and join your neighbors and friends for indoor lap walking. Go at your own pace. Drop-in. No registration is required, however a free fitness pass is required to use the Gym.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
10 Week Session
Tuesdays, 1:15-2 p.m.
January 9-March 12
Free

Yoga for 55+

This yoga class is about the gentle flow of yoga poses modified to an individual's needs, depending on their balance level. Improve balance, flexibility, posture, and stamina—and energize mind and spirit for better health and well being. No experience needed. Students must bring their own yoga mat. Instructor Sarita Lama

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
10-week session
Tuesdays, 12–1 p.m.
January 9–March 12
\$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. You will 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
10-week session
Fridays, 12–1 p.m.
January 12–March 15
\$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, registration is no longer required, however a free 55+ Recreation Center membership is required to participate in this activity.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
10-week session
Thursdays, 12–2 p.m.
January 11–March 14
Free



Special Events

Check out the fun we have planned!
Save these dates!



Annual Egg Hunt

Get your baskets ready and join the Takoma Park Recreation Department for an egg-citing time! There are four age categories: 2 and under, 3–4-year olds, 5–6-year olds, and 7–8 year olds. Games will begin at 10 a.m., and the hunt will begin at 11 a.m. SHARP! Don't miss out. Don't forget to bring your basket to Ed Wilhelm Field (behind Piney Branch Elementary School) for a morning of fun. We will be collecting the eggs at the end of the event to reuse next year.

Ed Wilhelm Field
2 Darwin Ave.
2–8 years
Saturday, March 30
Starting at 10 a.m.
Free



Fitness Expo 2024

The Takoma Park Recreation Center staff is preparing for our Annual Fitness Expo on Saturday April 6, 2024 at the Takoma Park Recreation Center. Come join us for an exciting day that will include demonstrations from our fitness programs as well as presentations from our local community health and wellness organizations. The expo will kick off at 10:00 am. For additional information or if you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact Vincent Cain at 301-891-7289 or vincentc@takomaparkmd.gov

Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
All ages
Saturday, April 6
10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Free



Summer Jobs—Start Looking Now!

Are you looking for fun and flexible part time summer jobs with competitive pay? The Takoma Park Recreation Department begins looking for our summer employees as early as the beginning of February 2024! Interviews will begin in mid-March, and employees are expected to be hired in May.

If you're a student or teacher out of school for the summer—or even a retiree looking for a satisfying and rewarding job—we absolutely recommend working with the Takoma Park Recreation Department! We offer a variety of paid part time jobs. Or you could volunteer through the CIT (counselor in training) program that can earn students their needed Student Service Learning hours. Jobs are available at both the Takoma Park Community Center (7500 Maple Ave.) and the Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Ave.).

The available positions will involve working with youth or teen camps. We are looking for recreation program aides (must be at least 16), recreation program leaders (18+), and recreation program leader II—camp director (21+) to work with our 6–12-year-old camps. Teen camps will also need program leaders and a camp director, must be at least 21 years old. We also have positions available for the front desk that are open until filled. If you are interested please visit our careers site at bit.ly/2024TPSummerJobs.

In addition to all these amazing employment opportunities, we have a summer youth employment program. The purpose is to provide young people with a summer long adventure that is more than just a job but a true learning experience.

With this program, there will be several jobs available, not only with the recreation department but also with local Takoma Park businesses. Parents and teens will need to register and come to the February interest meeting to learn more about this



8-week program. You must be 16 years old by June 1, 2024 in order to participate. Don't forget about those Student Service Learning hours!

The Counselor in Training Program works with youth camps and has the opportunity to receive up to 40 SSL hours. Participants will have to attend Orientation, Pre-service and CPR/First Aid/AED training. If you have any questions about the Counselor in Training or Summer Youth Employment Program, reach out to Haven Rhodd at HavenR@takomaparkmd.gov.

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!



Credit: Selena Malott

Pat Rumbaugh, *The Play Lady*, is joined by the volunteers who helped with the Seventh Annual Mid-Year Play Day on February 12, 2017.

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:

Mon-Thurs: 6:30-8:30 a.m. & 4-7:30 p.m.
Sat: 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sun: 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: www.takomasoccer.org

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

Recreation Registration and Policies

visit us online @

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



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 via mail or walk in:
Takoma Park Recreation Department
7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912

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.

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.

Winter
Registration Opens

December 15:
TP Residents

December 8:
Scholarship Awardees

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 nonresident 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 (7) business days** prior to scheduled start of the program. A \$15 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.



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

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

Be Safe, Be Seen

A Winter Guide for Pedestrians, Cyclists, and Motorists!

Weather forecasters predict a cold and snowy winter. With that in mind, here are some essential tips to keep you safe and sound during the upcoming El Niño winter.

With a focus on pedestrian, cyclist, and driver safety, these pointers aim to prepare you for the unique challenges that winter weather brings. Whether you're walking, biking, or driving, adopting these proactive measures will enhance visibility, reduce risks, and contribute to a secure and enjoyable winter for all. Let's work together to ensure a season of safety on our city streets!

For Pedestrians

Visibility is Key: Wear bright and reflective clothing, especially during low-light hours. Carry a flashlight if possible.

Sidewalk Awareness: Watch for icy patches and walk carefully. Use designated crosswalks to ensure drivers see you.

Footwear Matters: Choose sturdy, slip-resistant shoes or boots to prevent slipping on icy surfaces.

For Cyclists

Lights and Reflectors: Ensure your bike has functioning lights and reflective materials for increased visibility.

Slow Down: Reduce your speed in icy conditions to maintain control of your bike.

Brake Carefully: Be gentle on the brakes to avoid skidding. Consider winter tires for better traction.

For Drivers

Increase Following Distance: Roads may be slippery, so give yourself extra space behind the vehicle in front of you.

Clear Snow and Ice: Keep your vehicle's windows, lights, and mirrors clear for optimal visibility.

Continued on next page



Tenants → Owners



Interested in owning your apartment building with your neighbors? If so, you may be eligible for assistance in the purchase of the building and in making needed repairs to extend the life of the home!



Contact the Housing Division:

Email: housing@takomaparkmd.gov

Phone: 301-891-7119



Housing and Community Development

Economic Development Division • 301-891-7119
econdev@takomaparkmd.gov

Community Feedback Opportunities

The City's Planning Division has a number of big projects in the works, and we will need your input! The following projects will have community meetings, workshops, and/or city council hearings this fall. They will have impacts on public space, pedestrian and bike safety, economic development, and more! To learn about each project and get details on how to get involved, search for following web pages on the City's website:

- Public Space Management Plan
- Minor Master Plan (County-led project)
- Maple Avenue Connectivity Project

Housing Division
301-891-7119
housing@takomaparkmd.gov

The Housing Division is responsible for monitoring Takoma Park's rental housing stock, ensuring compliance with the City's landlord tenant laws, and administering a variety of grant opportunities designed to further its goals to create and maintain a more fiscally and environmentally sustainable community and improve the quality of life for all residents. To find out more about the services and grant programs listed, visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development.

Let It Snow! But Then Grab a Shovel!

Although we can't say for sure, forecasts for our area are saying there is a good chance for some snow this year. With the potential for snow comes an opportunity for residents and business owners to show what good neighbors they can be.

When it snows, we need to remove snow and ice from sidewalks so neighbors and visitors can travel safely. When sidewalks aren't clear, people have to walk in the street or try to navigate dangerous patches of ice, so please be considerate of neighbors and the community and keep your sidewalks clear.

Would you be willing to help out your neighbor? If your neighbor needs some assistance clearing off their sidewalk,



offer to give them a hand after you finish clearing yours.

The City has regulations regarding snow removal. Residents have until noon on a day snow has fallen and accumulated in the night or until 9 p.m. on the day in which it has accumulated.

Commercial establishments will need to keep their sidewalks clear between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. The full width of your sidewalk must be clear unless full-width clearing is not feasible, in which case at a minimum a continuous three-foot-wide path of the paved sidewalk must be cleared.

Last, to protect our sidewalks and trees, the use of rock salt is strictly prohibited on sidewalks or within 10 feet of trees.

Continued from previous page

Watch for Pedestrians and Cyclists:

Be vigilant, especially at intersections and crosswalks. They may be harder to see in winter conditions.

General Tips for All

Stay Informed: Be aware of weather forecasts and road conditions before

heading out.

Plan Ahead: Give yourself extra time to reach your destination, considering potential delays due to weather.

Stay Warm: Make sure your extremities are protected. Remember to keep fingers and toes as warm as possible and to avoid exposing skin, even on your face

Keep an Emergency Kit: Carry essentials

like a flashlight, blankets, and a charged phone in case of unforeseen circumstances.

Remember, safety is a shared responsibility. By following these tips, we can ensure a safer winter and festive season for everyone in our community.

Public Works

Public Works

31 Oswego Ave.

301-891-7633

publicworks@takomaparkmd.gov

takomaparkmd.gov/publicworks

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



SERVICES

It's snow season: help us clear the streets!

The City's Public Works staff will be ready to respond to winter weather to keep city streets and sidewalks clear. You can help make this effort work better by following these suggestions:

- During snow events, please park your car off the street, if possible.
- If you must park on the street, make sure to pull your car as close to the curb as possible, and at least 25 feet from an intersection.
- Please clear your sidewalk of snow and debris.

For more information on snow removal, please visit takomaparkmd.gov/snow.

Electronics and computer recycling drop-off

Bring your old or unwanted electronic equipment and computer components to be recycled to the Public Works facility. Although the office is closed to the public, items can be dropped outside the front door.

Battery recycling drop-off

Bring your used household batteries for recycling to Public Works. Accepted types include AAA, AA, C, D, 9v, lithium ion, lead acid, nickel cadmium, button cell, nickel metal hydride, and nickel zinc. For more information on what can and cannot be recycled please visit the city website.

Trash carts and recycling containers

Trash carts can be purchased from Public Works. 64-gallon carts cost \$53.30



Hey TkPk... it's time to switch to electric!

Electrify MC helps single-family residents transition from fossil fuels (oil, gas, and propane) in their homes. **Here's how it works:**

- ➔ Scan the QR & **Apply NOW!**
- ➔ Schedule an energy audit.
- ➔ Get direct guidance and installation from contractor Elysian Energy.
- ➔ Receive hundreds or thousands \$\$\$ in direct incentives and rebates on electric appliances!



(Scan here)



Questions? Contact Dory Estrada, Sustainability Manager - destrada@takomaparkmd.gov | (301) 891-7623

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Public Works

and 96-gallon carts cost \$58.10. Carts have lids, wheels, and handles. Recycling containers are free and available at the Public Works Yard for pick up during office hours.

Food waste collection program

The City's curbside food waste collection program is available to all the households within the City of Takoma Park. Single family and multi-family properties that receive City collection are eligible to participate in the food waste collection program. Please register at takomaparkmd.gov/publicworks/food-waste-collection. Food waste containers are available for pick up, at no charge, at Public Works during office hours.

Large item pick-up

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



**NEED
SUPPORT TO
MAKE YOUR
HOME
ENERGY
EFFICIENT?**

**Assistance is
available now
at no cost to
qualified city
residents.**

Holiday Schedule

Christmas: Monday, December 25
Yard waste pick-up is cancelled.

New Year: Monday, January 1
Yard waste pick-up is cancelled.

**Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday:
Monday, January 15**
Yard waste pick-up is cancelled.

**Presidents Day:
Monday, February 19**
Yard waste pick-up is cancelled.



APPLY NOW!



Through grant support, city partners Building Change and EDGE Energy deliver home electrification and efficiency services to qualified low- and moderate-income Maryland residents. Qualifying homes may also be eligible to have rooftop solar installed at no cost!

Make your home more comfortable and efficient while reducing utility bills. Scan the QR code to learn more & apply!



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. Here is a sample of the programs and services we provide.

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.

Help Provide Shelter from the Cold

If you need or see someone who needs shelter, call the Community Crisis Center, 240-777-4000; Shelter Services, 240-777-3289; the Takoma Park Police non-emergency number, 301-270-1100; or the Montgomery County Police non-emergency number, 301-279-8000.

Donate Winter Clothes

Do you have coats, gloves or scarves that you don't need anymore? Donate them!

The Takoma Park Police Department, in partnership with Adventist Church, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department, and others, is collecting clean, gently used warm coats in any size from infant to adult. The coats will be donated to people in need. We will also accept clean, gently used gloves/mittens and scarves.

A large box will be in the lobby of the Takoma Park Police Department, 7500 Maple Ave. through Friday, December 29. If you have questions, please contact Cathy Plevy at cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov.

Join the Community Police Academy

The Community Police Academy begins on Tuesday, March 5. Look in the January newsletter and online for an application to register.

The Community Police Academy is a 12-week program consisting of one class a week on Tuesday evenings, 7–9:30 p.m. The classes cover topics such as patrol, traffic enforcement, use-of-force, criminal investigations, firearms, and crime analyses. There are multiple opportunities for hands-on learning through equipment demonstrations, practical scenarios, field trips, and ride-alongs with patrol officers.

Through the Community Police Academy, members of the community gain insight into how law enforcement officers perform their duties. To hear what others have said about the



Caring About Residents Every Day (CARE) Program

CARE is a program directed at our residents who live alone with special needs, or just need to be checked on each day.

CARE is another way we can give back to the community and take care of those in need.

Residents who register will call the police department once each day between noon and 5 pm. If they don't call, we will call them. If they don't answer, we will send a patrol officer to check on their welfare. This program is to protect those in need and bring a sense of peace to those friends and relatives who care, but who are not close enough to check themselves.

To enter the program, you would register by filling out a CARE registration form. That form essentially gives us your name, address, date of birth, home number and cell number, vehicles owned, pets or any other information that would be relevant to an officer visiting your home.

It also asks for information on any medical conditions, including recent surgeries and mobility issues, as well as the name, phone number, and address of your primary care doctor



and an emergency contact.

Once a person has successfully registered, the registration form, signed agreement, photograph, and residence key are placed in a CARE binder and stored in our Communications/Dispatch office, which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For more information, please visit takomaparkmd.gov/police.

Police

Academy, please search for “community police academy” on takomaparkmd.gov.

The Community Police Academy is free to the public. Seats are limited to the first 25 students and are filled on a first-come-first-served basis. The Takoma Park Police Department asks that all applicants commit to the full 12 weeks to get the most out of the program.

You must be age 16 or older and live or work in Takoma Park. You may not have any serious misdemeanor or felony offenses.

Any questions about the Community Police Academy can be directed to the Police Public Information Manager Cathy Plevy at 301-891-7142 or cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

If someone you know is elderly or dependent on life-sustaining or health-related equipment, such as a ventilator, respirator, or oxygen concentrator, you should make plans now to ensure their needs are met during severe winter weather and possible power outages.

- Help them stock a home disaster kit, including a flashlight and extra batteries, a battery-operated radio, bottled water, non-perishable foods, essential medicines, and extra blankets or sleeping bags.
- Check on them after a storm or power outage. Register them as a special needs customer with their utility companies so they will become a priority customer. Notify others who could provide help such as neighbors, relatives, nearby friends, and local emergency responders, such as the fire department.
- Have a list of emergency numbers readily available.
- Have a standby generator or an alternative source of power available. Be aware of the safety rules for use.

Stay Safe While You Keep Warm

More home fires are started by heating equipment than any other cause. Portable and electric heaters are the most dangerous. But it is possible to be warm and safe this winter by following these tips on space heaters:

- Place space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn—including furniture, people, pets, and curtains.
- There should always be an adult in the room when a space heater is on.
- Turn off the space heaters before leaving a room or going to sleep.
- Never use space heaters to dry clothing or blankets.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning Precautions

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is known as “the silent killer.” You cannot see it, smell it or taste it. CO claims the lives of nearly 300 people in their homes each year, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). CO is a deadly gas that is produced by fuel-burning heating equipment, such as furnaces, wood stoves, fireplaces, and kerosene heaters. Follow these guidelines to help keep your family safer:

Install at least one CO alarm near sleeping areas.

Have a trained professional inspect, clean, and tune-up your home’s central heating system and repair leaks or other

problems. Fireplaces and woodstoves should also be inspected each year and cleaned or repaired as needed.

- Keep gas appliances properly adjusted and serviced.
- Never use an oven or range to heat your home.
- Never use a gas or charcoal grill inside your home or in a closed garage.
- Portable electric generators must be used outside only. Never use them indoors, in a garage, or in any confined area that can allow CO to collect. Follow usage directions closely.



Protect Your Pets

Winter is a time we should pay close attention to the safety of our pets. Here are some tips:

- If your pet goes outdoors, be aware of the temperature. Pets can get frostbite very easily on the ears, tail, and paws.
- When walking your dog, check the paws to make sure that ice is not building up between the toes and that salt from the road is not irritating the skin.
- If your dog is a swimmer, keep it on a leash around open water or unstable ice. Hypothermia can set in quickly and the dog may be unable to get out of the water.
- Before you start your car, you should honk the horn to make sure that a cat has not decided to nap in a warm spot under the hood of the vehicle, or underneath the vehicle.
- If you have left your holiday decorations up after Christmas, keep ornaments out of reach of your pets. Remember that poinsettias, holly, mistletoe, and other plants can be toxic if ingested.

Donate to Montgomery County Animal Shelters

From Tuesday, January 2 through Friday, February 2, Takoma Park Police will be collecting new/gently used bath towels, beach towels, bathroom rugs, hand towels, washcloths, and blankets to help the Montgomery County Animal Shelters. We are also collecting beds, toys, and unopened food. Please bring your donations to the Takoma Park Police Department lobby, 7500 Maple Ave.,

NOTE: For the safety of the animals, do not donate fitted sheets, items with zippers or snaps, and/or other fabrics with rips or frayed edges.

The City of Takoma Park is an exciting organization offering a variety of career opportunities.



Your CAREER is here!

**Great benefits
Competitive wages**

TakomaParkMD.gov/Careers