A Cat’s Life Rescue has seen a surge in kittens during the pandemic in Takoma Park and Prince George’s County and is looking to find them homes.

A Purr-fect Pandemic Companion
By Sean Gossard

As many Americans continue to quarantine headed into the colder months, now may be the best time to adopt a furry friend to help fend off any feelings of loneliness. A Cat’s Life Rescue has been helping Takoma Park residents do that by adopting rescue cats — many of which were trapped in Takoma Park before being spayed or neutered.

*Adoptions have been very high which has almost doubled our numbers from last year and allowed us to save way more.*

New at the Takoma Park Maryland Library

Homeschooling Books

The library has updated its collection of homeschool books, with help from Children’s Librarian Kati Nolfi. Here are her recommendations. They are available through the library’s Books-To-Go program. Email us at librarytakomapark@gmail.com. Check our catalog to be sure the book you want is available.

Simplify Your Homeschool Day: Shorten Your Day, Sweeten Your Time
Tamara L. Chilver

Plan to be flexible, Designing a Homeschool Rhythm and Curriculum Plan That Works for You
Alicia Michelle

Suddenly homeschooling: A Quick-Start Guide to Legally Homeschool in Two Weeks
Marie-Claire Moreau

Home Learning Year by Year, Revisions and Updated: How to Design a Creative and Comprehensive Homeschool Curriculum
Rebecca Rupp

COVID-19 Impacts City Leaf Collection Program

City Encourages Residents to Consider Mulching Leaves
By Daryl Braithwaite,
Public Works Director,
City of Takoma Park

To protect the health of Public Works employees, their families, and the larger community in the pandemic, the City will not be hiring the usual number of seasonal workers to assist with vacuum leaf collection this year, and we anticipate a slower than normal response rate to removing leaf piles at the curb.

For this and for environmental reasons, we strongly encourage residents to mulch or compost all or most of the leaves in their yards. Information on the best ways to do this is outlined here. Leaves can also be bagged and collected on the Monday yard waste collection. The City will be offering vacuum leaf collection, but it will be less

Information and Resources: Covid19 takomaparkmd.gov

Questions, Comments and Suggestions askus@takomaparkmd.gov

#TogetherTKPK
VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Due to the public health crisis, the City Council has been meeting remotely by video conference. This will continue as long as necessary. The meetings are available to watch live (or view afterwards) in all the usual ways:

- on City TV (RCN - Channel 13, HD Channel 1060 Comcast/xfinity - Channel 13 Verizon Fios - Channel 28), and Comcast/Xfinity HD Channel 997
- on Facebook (@TakomaParkMD/)
- on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/user/TakomaParkTV)

The public can comment live during the public comment portions of the meetings by registering and logging into the video conference. The link will be provided by weekly email from the City Clerk and on the City website. For those not able to do so, written comments may be sent by email to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov to be circulated to the Council.

Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and calendar update by e-mail can sign up by sending an email to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov.

Important City Department Phone Numbers

City Information ................................................................. 301-891-7100
City Clerk ................................................................. 301-891-7267
City Manager ................................................................ 301-891-7229
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

ADA NOTICE

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone with a disability who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations at a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing is invited to contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at jessie@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267 at least 48 hours in advance.

Page 2  Takoma Park News
LEAF COLLECTION

Frequent than in past years. The City’s annual leaf collection program required the addition of 12 seasonal workers to assist staff with the operation of six leaf collection vacuums in six collection zones. The program was able to cover each street in the city in a two-week period. The program operated over a five-week period from mid-November to mid-December. All streets received at least two passes and often received three or more. However, this year, the City has decided against bringing in temporary employees to make it possible for City employees to maintain best practices in social distancing and in reducing unnecessary social contacts. These safety measures reduce the chance of contracting or spreading COVID-19.

This year’s collection will divide the City into three zones with one leaf collection crew per zone. The collection period will be extended from November 16 to December 31. This arrangement is expected to reach every street in a three-to-four-week period. The length of time that a leaf pile will remain on the curb will increase as compared to prior years. Streets that receive collection on posted days (State Highway routes) will still receive two collections on the scheduled date as usual. The City explored other options, including cancelling vacuum leaf collection this year and requiring all leaves residents wished to be collected to be bagged in paper bags, but that option does not work as well with available vehicles and staffing.

The City will be mailing the annual leaf collection notice this month and will have updated information on the City’s website. The Leaf Collection Hotline will remain available (301-891-7620); however, the City will not be able to provide collection as frequently as previously provided.

Residents should consider more environmentally beneficial alternatives for managing some or all of their fall leaves. There is significant environmental benefit to keeping leaves and their nutrients on the yard and gardens. Leaf litter, particularly when mulched or shredded into smaller bits, helps improve soil quality and water retention by providing food for beneficial macroorganisms, which in turn improves soil, tree and plant health. Mulch also suppresses the mowing of leaves.

The Newsletter is printed on recycled—

content paper. The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified or political advertisements. The Newsletter is printed on recycled—content paper.

Mow, mow your leaves!

- If your mower has a bag or chute for a discharge outlet, close it up to enable the leaves to get chopped up more finely.
- To reduce carbon emissions its best to use an electric or battery powered mower.
- You will want the leaves to be dry. Do not try to mow piles of wet leaves.
- A light covering of leaves on the lawn can be mowed over and left in place. This technique is most effective with a mulching mower and when the leaf drop is light or you can do it frequently.
- You may want to use a bagging attachment to assist in transporting chopped leaves. Rake out several inches of leaves into a layer and run them over with the mower. You can then use the bagger to carry the mulched leaves to garden beds, around trees or other areas of the yard where you can store to enable it to decompose further.
- If you have a heavy layer of leaves you can follow these steps:
  - Run the mower over leaves several times to chop them into small pieces
  - Lightly rake the chopped leaves into a small pile and then move that pile a few more times.
- These shredded leaf pieces can then be raked around the lawn or distributed by blowing them with the mower (reopen open the discharge chute)
- You don’t want the leaf bits to smother the grass. Raking them after they are chopped will help the grass blades stand up and the leaf pieces fall to the soil.
- If you have a large quantity of leaves, you may want to consider mowing just 25 or 50% of them at a time.
Montgomery County COVID-19 Rent Relief Program for Tenants

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services is accepting applications for Phase 2 of the COVID-19 Rent Relief Program, which has $20 million to help Montgomery County tenants who are behind in their rent. Under this program, a tenant can receive up to $4,000 to pay back rent or they can receive a rent credit for future rent. Families that applied for the HOH Rental Assistance Program are also eligible to apply for the COVID-19 Rent Relief program if they meet the requirements. Residents who received rental assistance through the Phase 1 of the Rent Relief Program will not be eligible for this program. For more information on the Rent Relief Program and other Montgomery County eviction prevention assistance, you can visit Montgomery County Health and Human Service homepage at montgomerycountymd.gov or call 240-777-0311.

CDC Temporarily Halts Residential Evictions to Prevent the Further Spread of COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) ordered a national halt to residential evictions, for failure to pay rent to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The eviction moratorium went into effect on September 4, 2020 and will last until December 31, 2020 unless the order changes. Under this order, tenants who are eligible for this relief will avoid eviction through the end of the year. This Order does not provide relief for tenants who are evicted for reasons other than failure to pay rent.

Tenants must establish that they are eligible for relief from eviction by providing the landlord with a signed copy of the Declaration Form established by the CDC. Each adult under the lease agreement must complete this form and must confirm the following information:

- I have used best efforts to obtain all available government assistance for rent or housing;
- I either expect to earn no more than $99,000 in annual income for Calendar Year 2020 (or no more than $198,000 if filing a joint tax return), was not required to report any income in 2019 to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, or received an Economic Impact Payment (stimulus check) pursuant to Section 2201 of the CARES Act;
- I am unable to pay my full rent due to substantial loss of household income, loss of compensable hours of work or wages, lay-offs, or extraordinary out-of-pocket medical expenses;
- I am using best efforts to make timely partial payments that are as close to the full payment as the individual’s circumstances permit;
- I understand that fees, penalties, or interest for not paying rent or making a housing payment on time as required by my tenancy, lease agreement, or similar contract may still be charged or collected;
- I further understand that at the end of this temporary halt on evictions on December 31, 2020, landlord may require payment in full for all payments not made prior to and during the temporary halt and failure to pay may make me subject to eviction pursuant to State and local laws.

Tenants in Montgomery County should immediately contact the Department of Health and Human Services to receive assistance with back rent and other rental subsidy programs. Under the terms of this moratorium, landlords can also be subject to fines if they evict a qualifying tenant for failure to pay rent. For more information on the Order you can visit the CDC’s homepage.

Current State-Mandated Lead Certificate Required for Rental License Renewal

Do you have a City of Takoma Park Rental Housing license for your single-family home, accessory dwelling unit (ADU), condominium, or multi-family building? No matter the size, the State of Maryland requires that you keep your lead certificate current and share your updated certificates with the City. The City must have your current, valid certificate on file before license renewals may be issued. Please note that the certificate itself is different from maintaining your listing on the State registry. The certificate shows the results of the specific inspection.

If your license is due for renewal this December, now is a good time to check your records to see if a new inspection is required. You will need a new inspection if any of these are true:

- Your last certificate was for “Full Risk Reduction” and you have changed tenants since the last time the property was inspected
- Your property is certified “Limited Lead-Free” and you are coming up on or have passed the two-year mark when a reinspection of the exterior is required.

You do not need a new inspection if any of these are true:

- Your property is certified Lead-Free.
- Your current tenant has been in residence since prior to 01/01/2015.
- The same tenant is in place since your last Full Risk Reduction certificate.

If you have not yet responded to the City’s request to verify that the current certificate is on file, please do so. You will need to either confirm that what is on file is current or send updated documentation. Certificates can be emailed to Patti Mallin, licensing specialist, at pattim@takomaparkmd.gov. If you do not have a PDF of the certificate, and are unable to scan it, you are welcome to email a photo of the certificate. Questions and other verification can be emailed to Patti at that email address, or you can reach her by phone at 240-315-6721.

Since 2015 Let’s Play America (LPA) has been giving a “Spirit of Play Award.” This year the Hanisco Family received the Award. Mary (mother and wife) has been a huge helper through the years. She applied for grants, which LPA received from the City of Takoma Park, thought up the idea of Traveling Play Groups in 2010 (the play committee held ten events at playgrounds that summer). Mary and her husband Tom helped with the installation of the mosaic word “Play” and playful symbols up on Takoma Park Elementary School facing the playground. The entire family has helped behind the scenes in every Play Day. Nina, who is a high school senior at Blair, offered karate moves at past Play Days, and a couple of years ago, she started the Boole Nook activity. Teen volunteers read to children and their families at Play Day. Lucy, who is now in sixth grade, took this activity over from Nina.
A Taste of Future Art Exhibitions

In the Takoma Park Community Center, hundreds of regional artists have displayed their creative work over many years, transforming a typical government building into a vibrant art gallery that is open to everyone. The community center will be closed indefinitely due to pandemic restrictions, but Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith has already curated eight future exhibitions that will be scheduled when the building reopens. The bimonthly exhibitions will branch across a wide range of artistic mediums and themes.

“Our art exhibitions have become very popular, and we received more than 100 submissions from artists across the D.C. area for our last call,” Smith said. “I’m looking forward to staging these shows as soon as possible, so we can share this broad depth of artistic talent in our community.”

The first upcoming exhibition will feature artwork by a diverse group of veterans from the Uniting U.S. non-profit organization. The group encourages veterans to create art as a form of therapy and financial support through art sales. Unlike most galleries, the community center doesn’t charge any commissions, so all proceeds from sales go to the artists. City staff members also organize free opening receptions and promote the exhibitions, which have been reviewed by The Washington Post and other publications.

Abstract art, manipulated photography, collage, figurative work, and art celebrating nature will be featured in other upcoming shows. Celebrating Sligo Creek will showcase photographs and mixed-media work inspired by Sligo Creek. Four Black female artists will share their timely work in another exhibition.

Since the community center is closed, the Takoma Park Arts cultural series is organizing many free online events, including poetry readings, film screenings, and concerts. You can sign up for our weekly e-newsletter for details about all of our programs at takomaparkmd.gov/arts. The arts help keep us together even when we’re apart.
These classes take place on Zoom (unless otherwise noted). Most classes are offered on a drop-in basis. If registration is required it will be noted in the activity description in ActiveNet.

**TOTS**

**EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT**

Creative Movement & Literacy with Carla
This class will include creative movement, dance, music, songs and books. Classes will be fun and will enhance body awareness, physical fitness, creativity, ability to follow directions, sequencing, number recognition, and reading readiness. Children that are six will be asked to be leaders for the class and demonstrate for the younger children. Instructor: Carla Perlo
4-6 years
Thursdays, 5-5:30 p.m
Free

**EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT**

Madden NFL 21 Tournament (PC/Nintendo Switch, PS4, Xbox)
This tournament places the best 16 PS4 players against each other for a single game elimination tournament. Players will invite each other to a match and play online, every Tuesday. Requirements: PlayStation Network Subscription, PS4 Console, Madden 21 Game, email address, and internet connection. For more information, contact jvoinvent@takomaparkmd.gov
Virtual
Ages 11-16
November 3-November 17
Tuesdays, 5-6 p.m.
Free

Madden NFL 21 Tournament (Xbox)
This tournament places the best 16 Xbox One players against each other for a single game elimination tournament. Players will invite each other to a match and play online, every Thursday. Requirements: Xbox Live Subscription, Xbox One Console, Madden 21 Game, email address, and internet connection. For more information, contact jvoinvent@takomaparkmd.gov
Virtual
Ages 11-16
December 3-December 10
Thursdays, 5-6 p.m.
Free

**VIRTUAL CLASSES**

**TEENS**

**EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT**

Let’s Move Caribbean Dance
Dance your worries away with this fun, energetic, and easy to follow dance workout. Afro-Caribbean fitness dance class is for all ages and will get the body moving to build cardio endurance and coordination. Instructor: KJ Total Fitness
All Ages
Fridays, 6-7 p.m.
Free

**ADULT**

**FITNESS**

5 Animal Play Qi Gong
This form of Qi Gong is one of the most ancient continuously practiced healing exercising systems in the world. Enjoy peaceful movements modeled on the crane, bear, monkey, deer and tiger. Participants will develop more strength, grace, flexibility, balance and healing in a relaxed virtual group setting. You will feel the effects in your body, mind and spirit as you find harmony with nature and yourself. Open to all - no experience needed. Your health is in your hands. Instructors: Patrick Smith & Joann Malone
16 and older
Tuesdays, 7-7:30 p.m.
Free

**MULTIMEDIA**

**Mobile Photography**
Learn the secret formulas to capturing beautiful moments and memories for any occasion season on your phone. This class will cover manual mode, composition, lighting, street photography, landscapes, portraits, group photography, selfies and storytelling. Class will meet at the Maple Avenue entrance of the TP Community Center. Instructor: Vinny Mwano
Meet at 700 Maple Avenue
16 and older
Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m.
Through October 27
Free

**RECREATION**

**VIRTUAL CLASS LINKS HAVE STARTED!**

**TEEN**

**FITNESS**

Commit 2 B Fit
Bring your yoga mats and water bottles and join us at Ed Wilhelm Field Saturday mornings for a fun energized session to work out and get fit.
"Don’t forget to bring a mask, water bottle and yoga mat. We will be following CDC guidelines for physical distancing. Limited spaces available and registration is required. Contact leiciana@takomaparkmd.gov for more information.
Ed Wilhelm Field (Behind Piney Branch Elem School)
Grades 6-12
Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Through October 17
Free

**ADULT**

**REConnect Afterschool**
Grades: K-2
3-5
6-12
Our virtual afterschool program will provide online activity time to allow participants to socialize and have some fun. We will also provide activities to do when we are not online. Join the fun! For more information visit, apm.activecommunities.com/takomparkrecreation

**YOUTH**

**DANCE**

Dance Class
Exploring various dance styles that can be tried at home that include, but are not limited to, hip-hop, ballet and jazz. Instructor: Charonne Butler
6-12 years
Sundays, 11-11:30 a.m.
Free

**ENVIRONMENTAL**

Heritage and Garden Art with Carla
The course will cover the life cycle of a plant, cultivation, germination, pollination, propagation, photosynthesis and phototropism. Each participant will be given a pot of soil, seeds and a Garden Art Fun Book that should be picked up at the Takoma Park Middle School-Green House. Students will grow from seeds and explore the above topics through discussion, videos, hands on experiences and creating art in their Garden Art Fun Books. Instructor: Carla Perlo
6-12 years
 Saturdays, 12:30-1:10 p.m.
Free

**FITNESS**

Recess
Here’s an opportunity for youth to virtually participate in exercise and communicate with their peers while remaining inside. Instructor: Charonne Butler
6-12 years
Saturdays, 10-10:30 a.m.
Free

**GUIDELINES**

In-person class links can be found on the Virtual Community Center page: takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc.

**IN-PERSON CLASSES HAVE STARTED!**

**IN-PERSON CLASSES HAVE STARTED!**

**VIRTUAL CLASSES**

**TEENS**

**EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT**

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Meet at 700 Maple Avenue
16 and older
Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m.
Through October 27
Free

*Check ActiveNet for updates as we are adding new classes frequently.*
Habrá dos elecciones el 3 de Noviembre:

- Elección Presidencial
- Elección de la Ciudad de Takoma Park

Su boleta electoral de Takoma Park es independiente del proceso de la Elección Presidencial. Recuerde votar en ambas elecciones.

Información Proporcionada solo para la Elección de Takoma Park

Debido a la pandemia COVID-19, la Junta Electoral de Takoma Park está enviando una boleta electoral de la ciudad por correo a cada votante registrado en Takoma Park. Los votantes pueden devolver la boleta por correo en el sobre provisto con estampilla postal prepagado o someter su boleta en un buzón oficial de votación. Hay dos buzones oficiales disponibles las 24 hrs al día para la elección de la ciudad:
1. Centro Comunitario Takoma Park (7500 Maple Ave. - estacionamiento de nivel inferior)
2. Centro Recreativo de Takoma Park - (7315 New Hampshire Ave.)

Si no recibes tu boleta por correo antes del 16 de Octubre, envíala por correo electrónico a elections@takomaparkmd.gov o llama al 301-891-7214.


¿Votación de ausencia de emergencia? Comuníquese por correo electrónico a elections@takomaparkmd.gov o llame al 301-891-7214. Todas las boletas deben ser recibidas o con matasellos del 3 de Noviembre de 2020 o antes para ser contadas.

Votar el Día de la Elección. Votar en su auto para su seguridad o en persona en el estacionamiento detrás del centro comunitario, 7500 Maple Ave. El día de la elección municipal estará disponible de 7 a.m. a 8 p.m. el 3 de Noviembre.
I Voted!

¿Necesita Asistencia con el Voto de la Ciudad, el Registro para Votar o tiene Preguntas sobre la Elección?

Asistencia en persona sobre la elección de Takoma Park estará disponible en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave., el 22 de Octubre hasta el 2 de Noviembre, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. incluyendo los fines de semana. Los residentes de Takoma Park también pueden registrarse para votar el día de la elección, el 3 de Noviembre.

Si se necesita asistencia de idiomas, comuníquese con Irma Nalvarte al 301-891-7214 o irman@takomaparkmd.gov.

DÍA DE LA ELECCIÓN – MARTES, 3 DE NOVIEMBRE

Votación en la Elección de la Ciudad de Takoma Park

Si aún no han votado, los residentes pueden votar por alcalde y concejo municipal elMartes, 3 de Noviembre, en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave. Para la seguridad de los votantes y los trabajadores electorales, la votación se llevará a cabo al aire libre en el estacionamiento detrás de 7500 Maple Avenue desde su auto o en persona si llega a pie. La votación estará disponible de 7 a.m. a 8 p.m.

Votación en la Elección Presidencial

Para votar en persona en la Elección Presidencial, los residentes pueden votar durante la votación anticipada en el Edificio Cívico en Silver Spring (1 Veterans Plaza), o en uno de los otros centros de votación temprana en el Condado de Montgomery. La votación anticipada comienza el Lunes, 26 de Octubre hasta el Lunes, 2 de Noviembre, de 7 a.m. a 8 p.m. El día de la elección, los lugares de votación más cercanos a Takoma Park serán en el Edificio Cívico en Silver Spring y en Montgomery Blair High School. La votación el día de la elección será de 7 a.m. a 8 p.m.
I am running for re-election to build on the work we have done and to realize housing as a human right, reimagine public safety, advance racial equity, and set ambitious goals and continuing to change how government functions.

www.KateStewartforTakoma.com
@KateforTakoma
@KateStewartforTakoma

KATE STEWART – INCUMBENT

My family has lived in TkPk for over 25 years. Our kids grew up attending local public schools, spending afternoons in the library, and Sundays on the soccer field. I first ran for Mayor to keep intact what is special about our City, while making changes needed to ensure a livable and vibrant community for all residents.

COVID-19 has turned our lives upside down. We need experienced leadership to continue to support residents and businesses in need, coordinate with County and state officials, secure funding, and plan for the future.

WARD 1

PETER KOVAR – INCUMBENT

Council service means communication. I’ve emphasized involving residents about Council agendas and City government; actively engaging to understand people’s views on municipal matters, and telling constituents how I’ll vote or factors I’ll consider in deciding my vote. Being accessible to those I represent will remain a major focus for me.

Our top challenges are responding to COVID-19 and reimagining public safety to address systemic racism and ensure Black and Brown residents are treated with dignity. I’ll continue stressing the importance of allocating sufficient funds to help residents and businesses affected by the pandemic and hearing from a wide range of stakeholders on police and public safety reforms.

I look forward to working collaboratively with residents on those issues, and also priorities like managing development; promoting inclusiveness, keeping Takoma Park affordable; and making progress on climate change, all of which are interconnected. I’d be honored to have Ward One voters’ support.

www.peterkovarforcouncil.com

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

WARD 2

CINDY DYBALLA – INCUMBENT

Since I was elected to represent ward 2, I’ve worked for policies and programs that reflect the values I believe we all share, for a community that’s inclusive — all ages, incomes, cultures, races; • affordable — across a range of incomes and lifestyles; and • sustainable (environment, climate, local economy).

And I promised to bring more voices into our civic conversation. Together, we’ve made progress—a housing strategic plan, climate action framework, economic development program, and more. I’m asking for your vote this fall, for another term, because there’s so much more to do to implement these plans and achieve COVID-19 recovery, public safety, and city budget.

On council, I’ve learned to keep an open mind, listen to all the voices in our diverse ward, do my homework, and be ready for the unexpected. For more on what I’ve done and hope to do, go to cindy4ward2.com, FB Cindy Dyballa and Twitter @dyballa_2.

www.cindy4ward2.com

WARD 3

KACY KOSTIUK – INCUMBENT

I’ve had the honor of serving as your City Councilmember for three years. Together, we’ve made great progress on our community’s most pressing issues.

I hope to continue to work together with you to address the impacts of COVID and the economic crisis, reform public safety/policing, improve racial equity, build a more affordable community, develop innovative budget solutions, adopt climate change strategies, and build trust and transparency. I will also prioritize communication and outreach with you — at neighborhood meetings, through outreach at PTA meetings, during office hours, weekly emails, and more.

I have three years of learning and relationship-building at the local, state, and regional levels, so I’m ready to hit the ground running to successfully advocate for our needs as a ward and community and ensure we’re meeting our goals. Together, we can build a community that is truly equitable, just, thriving, engaged, environmentally responsible, and fun.

www.kacyfortakomapark.com
kacyfortakomapark@gmail.com
facebook.com/katherine.kostiuk,
twitter.com/kackyostiuk

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

WARD 4

OLLY SWYERS

My platform emphasizes equity, transparency, and climate justice. As your city council representative, I will work in coalition with the many people striving for justice in our community: on land stewardship projects, food forests, community gardens, housing support, mutual aid, eviction blockades, food drives and equitable development. We still have so much work to do — as a city, as neighbors and as individuals. We aren’t there yet, but we can be if we take the right steps right now.

I am queer, nonbinary, filmmaker and activist, who grew up right here in Takoma Park. I attended local MCPS public schools and went on to study the world through filmmaking at Virginia Commonwealth University. I have worked in partnership with education, health and entertainment organizations as well as local LGTBQ+ organizers to help tell the stories that shape our world. I currently live on Cockerille with my family.

They/Them
www.OllyforTakoma.Org

TERRY SEAMENS – INCUMBENT

Terry performed computer software development during most of his 40-year career. He also managed software consultants and sold microcomputers and components to the Federal government.

Terry has been on the Takoma Park City Council for over 20 years. The focus of Terry’s work on the Council has been improving city management and transforming the Police Department to more closely match Takoma Park’s progressive character.

Terry is a persistent advocate for his constituents. He and his wife Joyce work tirelessly for the less fortunate in our community. They volunteer for the Manna Food Center to provide food assistance to those with insufficient resources. Terry is on Adventist Community Services Board of Directors where Joyce is the Director of Health and Wellness. Joyce is also Director of Operations for the Piney Branch Pool. Both Terry and Joyce are active in local community groups, including the Takoma Park Independence Day Committee.

www.OllyforTakoma.Org
www.Rogerfortakoma.org
Facebook: Roger Schlegel for Mayor of Takoma Park
Instagram: @roger_mayor

Continued on page 4
**WARD 5**

**SAWA KAMARA**

As your Councilmember, I will prioritize effective communication and promote interactions in the ward by expanding outreach, hosting regular community chats, sharing information through various accessible platforms, and arranging community events. As a former civic association president, I will transfer those same skills needed to have a functional community.

To have a positive and forward-moving community, we must work together. We need to elect leaders who stand by our community’s values and will promote progressive and inclusive policies. We need leaders who take the thoughts and suggestions of constituents into account when making decisions that will affect our way of life.

I am the leader we need to ensure a positive future for Ward 5. I humbly request your vote and support as I seek to give my fellow residents the collective voice and active engagement we so urgently need. On November 3, 2020, vote for Sawa Kamara.

www.sawacitycouncil.com
@KamaraSawa
Instagram: sawacitycouncil
Facebook: sawacitycouncil

**JARRETT K. SMITH – INCUMBENT**

My interest in politics and community is a result of being raised by parents who served the United States with distinguished careers in the military and government. I am the son of an Army Major, who served 21 years as an Intelligence Officer.

I received my undergraduate degree from Howard University, and I am currently an Executive MPA candidate at the University of Pennsylvania’s Fels Institute. This is my fourth term as a Takoma Park Councilmember. I serve on government and administrative bodies, which help me advocate for our city throughout the state of Maryland as well as the entire nation. A few of my accomplishments:

- Founded “Lunch & Learn” summer camp now in its 8th year, the largest FARMS program in Montgomery County;
- Established a $2.5M scholarship in 2015 to attend Montgomery College; and
- Delivered the Flower Avenue Green Street construction project.

**WARD 6**

**TALISHA SEARCY – INCUMBENT**

From Atlanta, Georgia, Talisha Searcy moved to Takoma Park in 2013. Talisha is passionate about civic engagement. She served as the President of the New Hampshire Gardens Community Association from 2015 to 2017. In this role, Talisha secured grant funding for community engagement activities including block parties and beautification projects.

As Ward 6 City Councilmember, Talisha has worked to advocate for residents and businesses alike. As a result, Ward 6 has received State and County funding to:

- Façade improvement for businesses (Becca Lilly and Hillwood Manor);
- Support businesses impacted by Purple Line construction; and
- Façade improvement for businesses along New Hampshire Ave.

Talisha has also been active in the Ward 6 Citizens Association. She served as the President of the New Hampshire Gardens Community Association from 2015 to 2017. In this role, Talisha secured grant funding for community engagement activities including block parties and beautification projects.

Talisha Searcy is also the Deputy Director for the Technical Strategy and Analysis Division at the Office of the National Intelligence Office.

I am the leader we need to ensure a positive future for Ward 6. I humbly request your vote and support as I seek to give my fellow residents the collective voice and active engagement we so urgently need. On November 3, 2020, vote for Talisha Searcy.

www.talishasearcy.com
@talisha_searcy

**WHAT’S ON THE BALLOT?**

√ Vote for mayor.
√ Vote for a city councilmember to represent your ward.

**¿QUÉ HAY EN LA BOLETA?**

√ Voto por el alcalde
√ Voto por un miembro del consejo de su distrito electoral

**This Information Will Appear on All Ballots**

**Instructions**

- Vote for candidates by marking your first choice, your second choice, and so on. You are free to rank only a first choice. Ranking additional candidates will not affect your first-choice candidate.
- Do not mark more than one box in a column. Do not mark more than one box for any candidate.
- To vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, print the name in the space provided and mark the box that shows your ranking of the write-in candidate.

**Instrucciones**

- Vote por candidatos en orden de preferencia indicando su primera opción, segunda opinión, y así sucesivamente. Puede clasificar solamente un candidato como primera opción. Eligiendo otros candidatos no afectará su primera opción de voto.
- No llene más de una casilla por columna. No llene más de una casilla por candidato.
- Para votar por una persona que no está nombrada en la boleta, escriba el nombre de la persona en el espacio asignado y llene la casilla en la columna que corresponda con el orden de preferencia.

**Each Ward Will Have A Different Council Contest**

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<td>Terry Seamans</td>
<td>Sawa Kamara</td>
<td>Talisha Searcy</td>
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October 2020 Takoma Park News

RECREATION

From page 6

• Ideation to Activation and Market Research
  your expertise. This virtual class will cover:
  Digital Marketing
  • Live interviews with digital consultants, hair
  stylists, clothing designers and organizational
  leaders on how they use the digital world to
  grow their businesses.
  In this course, you will learn how to navigate the
digital world to sell a product or your services.
  Instructor: Vinny Mwano
  16 and older
  Thursdays, 5–6 p.m.
  Free

Total Body Blast
  This class provides a mix of calisthenics, balance,
strength training and cardiovascular exercise in
one dynamic session. Participants will work at their
own pace to complete a workout that focuses on all
major muscle groups. Instructor: K.J Total Fitness
16 and older
  Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.
  Free

Yoga (Beginner)
  This Zoom class will get you on your feet, stretching
and reaching; it will energize you when you feel dull
and bring calm on stressful days. Appropriate for
seniors. No prior experience needed. Suggested
equipment: yoga mat, 2 blocks, 2 blankets, and 1 belt.
  Instructor: Tehseen Chatta
  16 and older
  Wednesdays, 5:30–6:30 p.m.
  Free

MULTIMEDIA

Digital Marketing
  We are all experts in something, and someone is
looking to benefit from your expertise. Learn the key
digital marketing skills that can help you monetize
your expertise. This virtual class will cover:
  • Ideation to Activation and Market Research

Phone a Neighbor
  We are looking for Takoma Park Seniors (55+) who
would like an occasional phone call during this time
of uncertainty. We have plenty of volunteers waiting
to assist. All participants must have a landline
phone or cell phone. To sign up, email javontem@
takomaparkmd.gov or call Ms. Paula at 240-687-4132.

FITNESS

Enhance Your Fitness
  The class theme is posture and will focus on core
strengthening utilizing various body strength training
exercises. Instructor: Adrienne Buist
55 and older
  Tuesdays, 8:45–9:45 a.m.
  Free

Line Dance
  Line Dancing is great physical and mental exercise,
and an enjoyable social activity that leads to
meeting new people and making new friends in
a virtual environment. Strengthening of bones
and muscles, weight loss, increased stamina and
flexibility, and stress reduction are just some of the
benefits of dancing. Learn how exercise can be fun
with music! No experience necessary. Instructor:
Barbara Brown
55 and older
  Wednesdays, 1–2 p.m.
  Free

“Zumba” Gold
  This class is for active older adults who are
looking for a modified Zumba class that re-creates
the original moves you love at a lower intensity.
The design of the class introduces easy-to-
follow Zumba choreography that focuses on
balance, range of motion and coordination.
  Instructor: Yesika Flores
  55 and older
  Fridays, 10-11 a.m.
  Free

Commit 2 B Well
  By Leicia Monfort

This year has flown by so fast. We’re already in Octo-
ber! For seven months, we’ve been staying cooped up,
social distancing and following the CDC recommenda-
tions to ensure the health and safety of everyone (let us
continue to practice these safety measures to get back
to normal as soon as possible). I don’t know about you, but
during the closure and while working from home, I’ve been eating a lot! My
schedule and priorities have changed, so sometimes
it would be a quick bite here and there or full meals
(sometimes in the middle of the night), and I have to admit
they weren’t always the most health-conscious
choices. Shame on me! I’ve also been completely over-
whelmed and anxious about everything that has been
happening around us. Can you say stressed? Thank-
fully, I am able to reach out to some friends and get
some advice on how to lose the “pandemic pouch” as
well as other self-care measures.

What self-care measures have you taken to care for
your physical and mental health? To avoid “cabin fever”
and putting on unhealthy weight, we need to stay ac-
tive; not just our minds but our bodies as well. One
way to do this is to get in shape.

Losing weight is one of the top trendy topics right
now. “How can I get rid of my Pandemic Pouch?” It’s
“easy” to start an exercise and diet program, but the
trick is to find one that works for you. Eat foods that
are healthier for you and taste good. There are tons of
websites and YouTube channels that can help you find
easy DIY quick healthy tasty meals. Do it solo or invite
a few friends to whip up some food or workout togeth-
er. One way to make it fun is to make it into a friendly
competition. Who doesn’t like bragging rights?
And guess what? We’ve got just the program for you!
Right now, if you are a Takoma Park Resident between
the ages of 11–18 you are eligible to register for our
weekly Commit 2 B Fit workout class! This free course
will take place on Saturdays mornings and started last
month in-person at Ed Wilhelm field (Behind Finey
Branch Elem School) at 10:30 a.m. Bring your mask,
water bottle and yoga mat for a fun, energized way to
get fit. Limited slots are available, so make sure you
register today. If you have any questions, contact lei-
ciam@takomaparkmd.gov. We will be following CDC
guidelines for physical distancing for all in-person
classes.

Special Note: Visit the Takoma Park Recreation De-
TPVirtualCom to see all of the fun happenings going
on that can help with ways to keep your mental and
physical selves active and engaged.

Be Determined. Stay Committed and Have Fun!
We’re in this Together!
Hispanic Heritage Month

We’re in the middle of Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15—Oct. 15), and it’s a good time to remind you that the library offers numerous Spanish resources for all ages. First, we have an extensive collection of books in Spanish for kids and adults, and also some bilingual Spanish-English books for kids.

To see what books we have, go to our website, www.takomapark.info/library and click on “catalog.” Once you’re in the catalog, look for books in Spanish. Spanish is marked “Language.” Find “Espanol-Spanish” in the list and click on it. Then click “search.” That will bring up all the items in our Spanish language collection. To limit the results to just kids or adult books, go to the section just above the “Language” button and click on “Collection.” Then scroll down a bit further to see a button marked “Language.” Find “Espanol-Spanish” in the list and click on it. Then click “search.” That will bring up all of the items in our Spanish language collection.

To limit your search to just kids or adult books, go to the section above the “Language” button and click on “Collection.” Then click on “Collection” again and choose your category, e.g. Adult Fiction, Juvenile Non-Fiction, etc.

We also have some great digital resources in Spanish for both kids and adults. If you’re interested in learning Spanish – or brushing up on your Spanish, click on “Language Learning,” which will take you to Pronunciator. You need to put in your library card number to access Pronunciator, and if you want to keep track of your progress and use it on mobile devices, you’ll be asked to register. Our Language Learning page also gathers all of our other language resources, including direct links to our Spanish offerings for kids on Tumblebook Library.

Big Book Club Returns!

“Hello! One of the pillars of literacy society, the Takoma Park Big Book Club, is back in business!” Thus Phil Schewe, the club’s organizer and host, announces its revival.

The book, chosen almost a year ago, is Toni Morrison’s novel, Beloved. First published in 1987, it is once again back on the New York Times bestseller list for paperback fiction.

The series will begin with a lecture on Zoom on October 7 at 7:30 p.m., by L. Augustus Durham, Assistant Professor of English at Lehman College and a specialist in African-American literature. Subsequent discussions, moderated by Phil, will also be on Zoom on Wednesday nights, October 14, 21, and 28.

To participate in the lecture and discussions on Zoom, here’s the direct link for the lecture and discussions:
https://zoom.us/j/98408543177?pwd=S25kSjkJYj1tJnR1KzRyRWRnRFZmpXUT09.
Or just go to HYPERLINK “https://zoom.us/j/98408543177” Zoom page.

The Takoma Park Big Book Club is supported through the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. All are welcome to attend the lecture and discussions. Copies of Beloved are available at the library, and may be checked out through our Books-to-go program. Just email your request to librarytakomapark@gmail.com. Check our catalog first to be sure a copy of the book is available.

Library Briefs

- Library Card Info: If you are having trouble using your Takoma Park Maryland Library card, it’s easy to get help! Just go to tinyurl.com/tkp-librarycard and register (Please note the info that says to ignore the date, as well as the confirmation you’ll receive; we are repurposing our program registration software as a way for patrons to contact us about library card problems). Once you register, a library staffer will be in touch with you to figure out what’s wrong with your card, and fix it for you. Those who want to get a card from our Library should follow the same procedure.

- Creative Crafts: Looking for some fun art projects to do with your kids? Check out our Facebook page, where Children’s Librarian Kati Nolfi regularly writes about creative craft projects that she tests out with her two young children. Among her recent posts is a suggestion for a different way for kids to paint. She also has a suggestion for making floating turtles and crabs that kids can then enjoy playing with in a pool, a puddle or in the bath. Keep up to date with craft ideas for kids by following our Facebook page!

- Storytime Videos: Each week, Children’s Librarian Kati Nolfi creates one or two brief Storytime videos, reading a picture book from the library’s collection and often singing a song or two. She’s now got quite a collection of these Storytime videos, which can easily be accessed for free via her YouTube channel, “Kati Knows Storytime.” Kati also posts the link to each video on our Facebook page. Among the books spotlighted in Ms. Kati’s latest Storytime videos are Brute: written and illustrated by Scott Magoon; The Day You Begin written by National Book Award winner Jacqueline Woodson and illustrated by Rafael Lopez; Jabari Jumps written and illustrated by Gaia Cornwall; and Madda’s Fridge written by Lois Brandi and illustrated by Vin Vogel. All of these books are in our collection and can be checked out via our “Books-to-Go” curbside service program. For more information, go to www.takomapark.info/library/curbside.html.

Calendar

The library building is closed, but we’re continuing to offer several great library programs each week via Zoom. To participate, go to https://zoom.us. Click on “Join a Meeting” and put in the Meeting ID (and Meeting PW, if any) listed with each program. Registration isn’t required for these programs, but if you are registered, we will send reminders as well as notices of any changes or cancellations. To register, go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryprograms. Please refresh your browser first as our line-up has recently changed, and also please make sure you register for the “Zoom” version of these programs. To keep up with all of our programs, go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents.

Zoom Circle Time: Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Meeting ID is 995-4961-8825 and Meeting Password is 178853.

Zoom Comics Jam: Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Meeting ID is 734-913-6285. No Meeting Password needed.

Zoom Spanish Story Time: Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Meeting ID is 986-2757-5745 and the Meeting Password is 437375.

Zoom Scribbler’s Cabal: Fridays at 4 p.m. Meeting ID is 734-913-6285 (same as Comics Jam), no Meeting Password needed.

Outdoor Yoga Storytime

We also now offer a one-in-person program, which takes place on Saturdays at 9 a.m., on the lawn of the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave. For physical distancing, we are limiting the program to 8 children, ages 3 and up, and their grownups, so registration is required. Masks are required for adults, and if kids can wear them, they try to do so. For more info and to register for the program, please go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents and scroll down to find the Outdoor Yoga Storytime program.

Note: There is no Outdoor Storytime Yoga program on Oct. 17, Oct. 24, or Oct. 31. There will be a program on Nov. 7, weather permitting.

Library

From page 1

The Brave Learner: Finding Everyday Magic in Homeschool, Learning and Life
Julie Bogart and Susan Wise Bauer
Homeschooling for Dummies
Jennifer Kaulfeld
Homeschool Bravely: Finding Everyday Magic in Homeschool, Learning and Life
Jamie Erickson
The Well Trained Mind: A Guide to Classical Education at Home
Susan Wise Bauer and Jessie Wise
The Call of the Wild and Free – Reclaiming Wonder in Your Child’s Education
Ainsley Arnett

Takoma Park News October 2020
Fall into Improving Your Lawn

Fall is one of the best times to improve your lawn, trees, shrubs, and garden. The basic maintenance you do during this “second spring” will pay off in healthier growth and fewer problems next year.

1. Mulch your trees:
   - The mulch should be 3 inches deep around the tree as a source of nutrients.
   - The mulch should start 3 inches from the trunk to allow water and nutrients to penetrate.
   - The mulch ring should extend 3 feet out from the trunk.
   - The mulch should not touch the base of the tree. Apply mulch to a ring around the tree trunk. Remember the Rule of 3.

2. Start organic lawn care:
   - A beautiful lawn next spring starts with simple actions you can take this fall. Learn from your soil. Whether it’s through weeds, or empty patches, the look of your lawn tells you about the health of the soil. The soil should be loose and teeming with life too small to see—if your lawn is suffering, start aerating your lawn, adding compost, re-seeding, and leaving all your grass and leaf clippings as a source of nutrients.

3. Avoid over-seeding your lawn:
   - Replace your “weed and feed” chemicals with grass seed. Fall is the perfect time to restore bare patches of lawn with seed—do this every year to fill in your lawn, because a strong carpet of grass will keep weed seeds from germinating.

4. Recycle excess yard trim:
   - With these tips, you and your family can successfully plant a tree in your yard. If you’d like to learn more about trees and tree care, join us for an online learning series with Maryland Sustainable Ecologies beginning this month.

Make a Difference - Plant a Tree

Discount Trees Available to Beautify Yards, Replace the Tree Canopy

ORDER FORM
Please include this completed form, with a check, payable to City of Takoma Park, for the number of trees selected, plus tax. Mail to Urban Forest Manager, 31 Oswego Ave., Silver Spring, MD, 20910. Deadline close of business October 19.

Name ________________________________

Address _____________________________________________________________

Phone __________________________

Please include a map of property/tree installation locations.

   _____ Swamp White Oak (2") $220
   _____ Willow Oak (2") $220
   _____ Bass Cypress (7’ - 8’) $220
   _____ Black Gum (2") $220
   _____ American Linden (2") $220
   _____ London Plane (2") $220
   _____ River Birch (2") $220
   + 6% sales tax

Total ______________________

3 Ways to Prep Your Lawn for Winter

1. Aerate the soil (add small holes) to allow water and nutrients to penetrate.
2. Add compost.
3. Add fresh grass seed; keep watered until establishment.

Tree Workshops to Be Held in October and November

The City has partnered with Maryland Sustainable Ecologies to offer four Saturday workshops on tree issues. The workshops will take place remotely on Zoom and will be 30-minute sessions. Each workshop can have up to 25 participants. Attendees can register for one or all of the sessions. To register, please send an email to urbanforestmanager@takomaparkmd.gov. Provide your name, address and which session you want to attend.

Session Topics

October 17: Basic Tree Biology and how to plant a tree
October 24: Basic tree hazards and invasive species
November 14: Common pests, diseases and visual identification
November 21: Legal considerations and how to hire a contractor

The sessions will be taught by Board-Certified Master Arborist, Richard Jones and Meg Smolinski, ISA certified arborist, from Maryland Sustainable Ecologies, which has developed the course content from nearly 25 years of cumulative experience in arboriculture, safety, tree care and best practices in the tree world.
LEAF COLLECTION

From page 3

Weeds. Fallen leaves provide habitat for wildlife that nourish our urban ecosystem, creating hiding and hunting places for toads, birds, salamanders and beneficial insects. Trees in particular benefit wildlife that nourish our urban ecosystem, creating hiding and hunting places for toads, birds, salamanders and beneficial insects. Trees in particular benefit from having a ring of mulch around them extending as far out as the tree's branches. Finally, make sure everyone leaves the vehicle when you leave it and don't forget to lock it.

Safety Tips When Using a Portable Generator during a Power Outage

- Generators should be used in well-ventilated locations outside away from all doors, windows and vent openings.
- Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- Place generators so that the exhaust fumes can't enter the home through windows, doors or other openings in the building.
- Make sure to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home.
- Turn off generator and let cool down before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is hot.
- Store fuel container away from the house.

Learn more about leaf collection and other waste management topics on the website at titanpark.org.

Hazardous Materials – In Your Backyard?

By Laura Johnson, President, Training Outreach

Hazardous materials and products have the potential to harm people, pets, and wildlife. Hazardous materials have any of these properties: reactive, ignitable, combustible, toxic, and/or corrosive. It is important to know how to identify them, dispose of them properly and to know what is in the vicinity of your home.

Hazardous Materials in Your Home/Office

To identify potentially hazardous products in your home or office, look for words on the product label such as poison, danger, warning, caution, toxic, explosive, or flammable. Hazardous products should be taken to special collection facilities for disposal. Takoma Park residents and businesses can drop off hazardous waste at the Montgomery County Transfer Station. Check the website for what they do and do not accept. Hazmats should never be thrown in the trash because they can pose threats to public health and the environment. These threats vary according to specific properties of the product.

Common Household Hazardous Waste

- Aerosols
- Antifreeze
- Batteries
- Cleaners
- Degreasers
- Engines
- Flourescent lights
- Household cleaners
- Medications
- Motor oil
- Paint
- Pesticides
- Sharps
- Solvents
- Thimers

How to Store Hazardous Materials Safely

- When you do need to store these chemicals, keep the following in mind:
  - Ensure that the hazardous product's container is fully sealed and easily identifiable.
  - Never store a hazardous chemical in a container used to store food or drink.
  - Do not store hazardous chemicals outdoors where they are exposed to the elements.
  - Store hazardous chemicals out of the reach of children; get down on your knees in every room in your home and consider what might be accessible by a child.
  - Ensure that hazardous chemicals are secure in the event of an earthquake.
  - Check labels for storage information and follow specific instructions, such as storing flammable chemicals away from heat sources.
So Many Memories

Editor’s Note: This the third of a series of articles reflecting on death and grief that will run under the thematic heading, “So Many Memories.” With many people in the Takoma Park Community experiencing loss, we decided to provide a forum for thought leaders in the community to offer their reflections on grieving and loss. If you have questions or would like to contribute, please email me at tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov.

—April Moley

“If we do not grieve what we miss, we will not praise what we love.”

—Martin Prechtel

Mourning Mother Earth
By Keith Kozloff

I have grieved the loss of my parents, my cat, first marriage, and a job. Many of us have experienced bereavement-like grief that erupts from such events. We are less familiar with grief emerging from growing awareness of changes around us that incur many individually small losses. I have experienced ranges of transitional grief from changes that we humans have wrought on our natural world when I:

• noticed native trees in our parks inexorably succumbing to non-native invasive vines;
• realized how deep blue the sky is when economic activities are shut down; and
• recalled that songbirds and butterflies were more diverse when I was growing up.

Given the cumulative enormity of ecological and climate disruption, it is understandable to avoid experiencing grief around what our species has done to the planet, for fear of becoming overwhelmed. But the risk of avoidance is that we become chronically numb, anxious, or depressed. As with the loss of a loved one, we need to feel the pain of loss to transition to healing.

As a personal story, my love for the natural world emerged around 6th grade, when I lived in suburban Chicago. An introverted adolescent, I looked for opportunities to temporarily escape a sometimes tempestuous family life. I would slip out of the house around 6:00 a.m. and drop into a different world a couple blocks away – a remnant patch of native prairie squeezed into a narrow strip along a commuter rail line. Crouching low and surrounded by milkweed, and goldenrod, I listened to red-winged blackbirds, watched swooping swallows, and studied webs of golden orb spiders. Immersed in this throbbing world, I felt peaceful and safe. Those early forays into a fragment of wilderness touched me deeply.

Through the years, however, I let my sense of connection to the natural world become squeezed into the corners of my psyche, even though my career focused on environmental policy issues. I do not know if that cramped prairie remnant still exists, but I grieve the gradual loss of my connection with wildness. That evolutionary legacy runs deep – for 99% of Homo sapiens’ existence, we would have considered ourselves wildlife. Despite (or perhaps because of) my career focus, I have recently concluded that top-down solutions to climate and ecological disruption, however well-meaning, will not succeed by themselves. Collectively, our society has been unable to stop ecological disruption. With all the advances in scientific understanding and policy solutions since my career began, key climate and biodiversity trajectories have been negative.

To fundamentally shift these trajectories may require a bottom’s up transformation of human consciousness in which we re-awaken our love for the natural world and relax our need to control it. Acknowledging other sources of transitional grief that may immerse us (e.g. the pandemic, economic shutdown, racial injustice), we can still begin healing the rupture between ourselves and the natural world. As a start, we might invite ourselves to reflect on the following questions:

• What do we love about being alive on our precious planet Earth?
• Was there some natural place, however modest, that held magic for us as a child?
• When we imagine being in this place, what do we feel and how do our bodies respond?

These reflections may help us to reconnect with our love for the Earth and to grieve for having been separated from that love. (Contact me for further readings on this topic at keith.kozloff@verizon.net.)

So Many Memories

The author returning from a climate change protest.

Public Space Management Plan

City Staff is developing a Public Space Management Plan to provide a vision, goals, and guidance on how public space will be used and maintained in Takoma Park.

Public space includes:

✓ Parks, playgrounds, and playing fields
✓ Plazas and places to gather, like the Gazebo
✓ Natural spaces and wooded areas, like Sligo Creek and Long Branch stream valley parks
✓ Streets that may be used for alternative activities like outdoor cafe seating or bike lanes

The City would like your help!

✓ Please complete our survey about Public Space. It only takes a few minutes and your voice is important.
✓ Outdoors spaces for spending time with family and friends are more important than ever.

Goto: https://bit.ly/32t0NRv

Your Opinion Matters!

TakomaParkMD.gov/government/housing-and-community-development
October 2020 Calendar

For the foreseeable future, we’ll use this space to feature city resources and provide important updates on city services. However, let us know if you have a virtual, nonprofit event that would be of interest to City of Takoma Park residents, and we’ll consider it for inclusion in the calendar. Deadline for the November issue is Oct. 9, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning Oct. 30. To submit virtual calendar items, email rnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov.

Event Cancellations
Due to COVID-19 concerns, please be advised that almost all events and meetings held in City facilities have been cancelled or postponed until further notice. Updates will be provided when events have been scheduled.

The Police Department is open 24/7 for emergency services.

For information on Takoma Park Arts online events, visit takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/arts-and-humanities.

SUPPORT THE ARTS

Washington Revels & Carpe Diem Arts Daily Antidotes of Song
Online/Virtual Daily, noon (ongoing)
Each day at noon, Washington Revels and Carpe Diem Arts will share some “notes of hope” as a song leader from their roster of local, national and international guest artists offers a song online. Info: info@reveilsdc.org; reveilsdc.org/2020/daily-song

Classical Livestream Concert
Saturday, Oct. 10, 5 – 6 p.m.
Celaya Kirchner, violin, and Carl Banner, piano, perform Schubert Duo, Op. 162, and Brahms Sonata #2 in A, Op. 100. View the concert at the Washington Musica Viva YouTube channel.

VILLAGE OF TAKOMA PARK EVENTS

Twitter Overview Workshop
Tuesday, October 13, 9 – 10 a.m.
Twitter is a social media tool that is often in the news, but are there ways of using Twitter for productive and uplifting purposes? Yes, there are. Learn some Twitter basics — including terminology — in this Twitter Overview Workshop. You do not need to have a Twitter account to benefit from this workshop.

Presenter Phil Shapiro works at the Takoma Park Maryland Library, along with teaching technology at the graduate level at American University.

Create Family Stories to Share
Monday, Oct. 19, 2 – 3 p.m.
Join Village of Takoma for a structured one-hour program that uses music, photos, videos and other prompts to encourage participants to write about their memories and experiences in a creative way. Presenter Sarah Taylor-Glaser holds a Bachelor’s degree in Fine Arts. She uses positive reinforcement to help others develop their creative writing skills, and provides further tips for participants to practice on their own. This event is limited to 28 participants.

A Virtual Tour of the American Collection at the National Gallery
Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2 – 3 p.m.
American art is closely tied to this country’s development as a nation. From early beginnings in portraiture to emerging themes of landscape and genre painting, American art reveals the stories that both reflected and shaped an evolving national identity. This tour traces the changes in American art from colonial days to the early 20th century, and shows how artists responded to critical events in American history. Our guide will be National Gallery of Art docent Estelle Quain, Ph.D.

Aging Well Event: Introduction to Drawdrown — Reversing Global Warming
Thursday, Oct. 29, noon – 1:30 p.m.
Pachamama Alliances’ Project Drawdrown is a coalition of more than 200 researchers and other experts from 22 countries, who identified and modeled the 100 most substantive, already existing solutions for addressing global warming and possibly reverse it by 2050. Information will be shared by two Drawdrown volunteer presenters: Rosemary Hodges, a member of Takoma Park Mobilization Environmental Committee and Climate Mobilization, Montgomery County chapter, and Lore Rosenthal, who is a Program Coordinator for the Greenbelt Climate Action Network.

Virtual events are free and open to all, but do require registration. Go to villageoftakomapark.com for more information.

SHARE IDEAS

Attend virtual City Council meetings!

Wednesday, October 7, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, October 17, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, October 21, 7:30 p.m.

Due to the public health crisis, the City Council has been meeting remotely by video conference. This will continue as long as necessary. The meetings are available to watch live (or view afterwards) in all the usual ways:

- on City TV (RCN - Channel 13, HD Channel 1080 Comcast/Xfinity - Channel 13 Verizon Fios - Channel 28) , and Comcast/Xfinity HD Channel 997
- on Facebook @TakomaParkMD/

Detailed agendas are available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas.

- on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/user/TakomaParkTV)

The public can comment live during the public comment portions of the meetings by registering and logging into the video conference. The link will be provided by weekly email from the City Clerk and on the City website. For those not able to do so, written comments may be sent by email to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov to be circulated to the Council.

Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and calendar update by email can sign up by sending an email to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov.

COMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Black Student Fund and the Latino Student Fund Student School Fair
Sunday, Oct. 11, 2 – 5 p.m.
The Black Student Fund and the Latino Student Fund presents the 48th Annual School Fair online. Tickets are free for families. The BSSF/LSF Annual School Fair is a forum for Washington metropolitan area families to learn about independent school education and engage students, teachers, and administrators from more than 70 local and national independent schools and educational programs. This augmented virtual reality event will also include workshops, chat rooms, recorded content, and a digital resources library. Ages: children and adults www.blackstudentfund.org

Voting in Takoma Park
Early voting: Monday, Oct. 22 – Monday, Nov. 2
Election Day: Tuesday, Nov. 3, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Any registered Takoma Park voter may apply to vote by mail in a City Election. All registered voters will be mailed a ballot. For the Nov. 3 City Election, more information on the socially distant polling place location will be posted online soon.

Stay Active

All virtual class links can be found on the Virtual Community Center page: www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation.

5 Animal Play Qi Gong
Participants will develop more strength, grace, flexibility, balance and healing in a relaxed virtual group setting. Instructors: Patrick Smith & Joann Malone
Tuesdays, 7 – 7:30 p.m.

Let’s Move Caribbean Dance
Dance your worries away with this fun, energetic, and easy to follow dance workout. Afro-Caribbean fitness dance class. Instructor: KJ Total Fitness
Fridays, 6 – 7 p.m.

Total Body Blast
This class provides a mix of calisthenics, cardiovascular exercise in one dynamic class. Instructor: KJ Total Fitness
Tuesdays, 7 – 7:30 p.m.

“Zumba” Gold
For active older adults, this class introduces easy-to-follow Zumba choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination. Instructor: Yesika Flores
Fridays, 10 – 11 a.m.

Twitter Overview Workshop
Tuesday, October 13, 9 – 10 a.m.
Twitter is a social media tool that is often in the news, but are there ways of using Twitter for productive and uplifting purposes? Yes, there are. Learn some Twitter basics — including terminology — in this Twitter Overview Workshop. You do not need to have a Twitter account to benefit from this workshop.

Presenter Phil Shapiro works at the Takoma Park Maryland Library, along with teaching technology at the graduate level at American University.

Create Family Stories to Share
Monday, Oct. 19, 2 – 3 p.m.
Join Village of Takoma for a structured one-hour program that uses music, photos, videos and other prompts to encourage participants to write about their memories and experiences in a creative way. Presenter Sarah Taylor-Glaser holds a Bachelor’s degree in Fine Arts. She uses positive reinforcement to help others develop their creative writing skills, and provides further tips for participants to practice on their own. This event is limited to 28 participants.

A Virtual Tour of the American Collection at the National Gallery
Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2 – 3 p.m.
American art is closely tied to this country’s development as a nation. From early beginnings in portraiture to emerging themes of landscape and