

## WHAT'S NEW?

**Pull-Out Election Section This Issue**  
Candidate profiles, Election Day details!

**Suplemento separable de Información Electoral Este tema**  
Información de los candidatos , Información detallada sobre el Día de la Elección

**Public Space Survey**  
Details, page 15

**Tree Care Workshops**  
Details, page 13

**Halloween Festivities**  
Details, page 11


**Trash collection**  
No changes this month

 **Look for this Icon throughout this issue**  
See page 14



*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.*

Credit: A Cat's Life Rescue



## 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

**COMPANION** ☐ Page 3

## 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 re-



moving 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

**LEAF COLLECTION** ☐ Page 3

Information and Resources: Covid19  
**[takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov)**

Questions, Comments and Suggestions  
**[askus@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:askus@takomaparkmd.gov)**

 **#TogetherTKPK**

## 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](mailto: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, Revises and Updated: How to Design a Creative and Comprehensive Homeschool Curriculum*  
Rebecca Rupp

**TP LIBRARY** ☐ Page 12



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### Inside



**Belonging Here: Equity Walk**  
Page 5



**Taking Care of Trees**  
Page 13



**Mourning Mother Earth**  
Page 15

# DOCKET

## City Council & Committee Calendar

### OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

#### REMOTE/VIRTUAL MEETINGS CONTINUE THROUGH DECEMBER

We expect that meetings will continue to take place in a remote/virtual format for the remainder of the calendar year. For the most current information, visit [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.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.

#### COMMENTING AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Individuals interested in commenting at City Council meetings must sign up by 5 p.m. on the day of the meeting. The link to sign up will be published on the calendar and on the City Council agenda page.

#### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday, October 7, 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, October 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, October 21, 7:30 p.m.

#### CITY BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meetings will be held remotely for the duration of the public health crisis.

#### ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 6, 7 p.m.

#### BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, October 8, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, October 22, 7 p.m.

#### COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, October 5, 7:15 p.m.  
Monday, November 2, 7:15 p.m.

#### COMPLETE SAFE STREETS COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 8, 7 p.m.

#### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 22, 7 p.m.

#### FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, October 13, 6:30 p.m.

#### NOISE CONTROL BOARD

Tuesday, October 20, 7 p.m.

#### NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 13, 7:30 p.m.

#### PARKING MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

Thursday, October 1, 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, October 15, 6:30 p.m.

#### POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, October 19, 7 p.m.

#### RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 15, 7 p.m.

#### TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 13, 6:45 p.m.

#### YOUTH COUNCIL

Sunday, October 11, 3:30 p.m.  
Sunday, October 25, 3:30 p.m.

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](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov).

#### 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 [jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7267 at least 48 hours in advance.

## CityCouncilAction

### 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 the City Council Video Page of the City Website (<https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/meetings-and-documents/city-council-video/>)
- 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/](https://www.facebook.com/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](mailto: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](mailto: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                 |





## COMPANION

■ From page 1

kitties off the streets,” said Niki Cochran, program director for A Cat’s Life Rescue.

Despite the high number of adoptions, this year has been especially rough for the rescue as people navigate life during a pandemic.

According to A Cat Life’s Board Member Heather Dorsey, the spay and neuter clinic the rescue uses was closed for more than two months at the beginning of the pandemic over health concerns, causing a huge spike in the number of kittens they’ve seen in the past few months. “We’ve just had a huge boom of kittens in the hundreds; it’s been a kitten season unlike anything we’ve seen before,” Dorsey said. “We’re just getting tons of kittens in now.”

But, the Takoma Park community has been extra supportive in donating things like towels and carriers to the rescue and also adopting. “The community is so generous,” she said. “We’re an all-volunteer organization and run exclusively through foster homes.”

The rescue has been in existence for a little more than 15 months and operates mostly in Takoma Park and Prince George’s County. In all, the organization has helped find homes for more than 250 cats in the area.



“A lot of rescues pull their kittens from local shelters,” Cochran said. “We get cats from outdoors, so we trap, neuter and release most, but take the friendlier cats and the kittens and put them up for adoption.”

One foster mom, Karen Ackerman, has been helping out A Cat’s Life Rescue for around a year now and in addition to fostering, she has adopted a few cats of her own. “About 10 months ago, Niki brought me an 8-month-old calico female to foster that I immediately fell

in love with,” Ackerman said. “I adopted her, and she’s been a wonderful addition to our household, along with my other two cats.” Dorsey’s cat has also been a major positive force in her life during the quarantine. “My pets have helped keep me sane,” she said.

To help raise money, the rescue is holding a virtual 5K with most of the proceeds going to their trap-neuter-return, adoptions, and medical care programs. “We had wanted to do an in-person one, but COVID changed everything,” Cochran said, “So we switched it to virtual. You still get a t-shirt and medal, and it’s really cute.” Between Oct. 4 and Oct. 11, registrants can run their favorite 3.1-mile course and upload the results and finish-line photo to see where they rank on the leaderboard. All ages are welcome, and there will be prizes in the male and female categories for each age group.

A Cat’s Life hopes to open its own building soon if it keeps getting community and grant support.

“Niki is a wonderful person who is doing a terrific job building A Cats Life Rescue to make sure that wild cats are neutered and protected and that the kittens she finds are taken care of,” Ackerman said.

If you’d like to help, visit [www.acatsliferescue.org](http://www.acatsliferescue.org) to find out how to donate money and supplies or rescue or foster a kitten.

## LEAF COLLECTION

■ From page 1

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

## Fun Fact

*Do you know that leaves contain 50% to 80% of the nutrients a plant extracts from the soil and air during a season?*

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 (301-891-7626); 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 shred into smaller bits, helps improve soil quality and water retention by providing food for beneficial microorganisms, which in turn improves soil, tree and plant health. Mulch also suppresses

### Other Options for Managing Leaves

Homeowners have a number of options for managing leaves on their properties. By using these options, instead of raking leaves to the curb, it avoids the problem of having them blow back onto your lawn while awaiting collection. Using the City’s bagged yard waste program is also a way to avoid delays in collection, however it does not enable you to get the direct nutrient benefit from the leaves. Instead, consider doing the following:

1. **Allow leaves to gather under trees, bushes, and other planted areas to decompose over time.** Mulch rings can be made from piling leaves under the tree. A depth of three to six inches is ideal for mulch layer around trees, while leaving a space of several inches between the mulch pile and the tree trunk to avoid trapping water that could cause rot. The leaf mulch ring should extend as far out from the tree as possible. A depth of two to three inches of mulched leaves is recommended for flower beds.
2. **Rake leaves into piles in an area of the property where they can compost in place to be used in the future around the yard.** Leaves can be mixed with grass and other organic matter like food waste in a compost bin. Leaves can also be bagged and left to decompose in place for use in the spring.
3. **Shred leaves by running over them with a lawnmower and leaving them in place.** Some mowers have a special mulching blade for this purpose. See the information box for more detail on mowing leaves.
4. **Request that your lawn care service shred the leaves** and leave them in place or identify locations for large piles to decompose over time rather than raking them to the curb or removing them entirely.



### THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Apryl Motley  
Assistant: Sean Gossard  
[www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov)  
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Letters to the editor, reports by community groups, calendar items and other submissions will be considered for publication; send to [tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov)

[takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov) or Newsletter, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Md. 20912.

Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material. Editor reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, style, spelling and grammar.

Published material containing opinions does not necessarily reflect the views of the Newsletter or the City of Takoma Park.

The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified or political advertisements.

The Newsletter is printed on recycled—

### Mow, 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 heavier 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 mow 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.

LEAF COLLECTION □ Page 14





# BUILDING COMMUNITY

## 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 HOC Rental Assistance Program are also eligible to apply for the COVID-19

Rent Relief program if they meet the requirements.

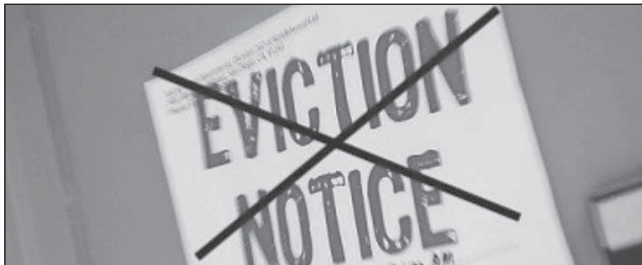
Residents who received rental assistance through the Phase 1 of the Rent Relief Program will not be eligible for this program. For more information on the Rent Relief Program and other Montgomery County eviction prevention assistance, you can visit Montgomery County Health and Human Service homepage at [montgomerycountymd.gov](http://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 may permit;



- If evicted I would likely become homeless, need to move into a homeless shelter, or need to move into a new residence shared by other people who live in close quarters because I have no other available housing options;
- I understand that I must still pay rent or make a housing payment, and comply with other obligations that I may have under my tenancy, lease agreement, or similar contract. I further 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 certification 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](mailto: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 Book 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



Credit: Bien Martinez

### Equity Walk Launches October 7

Takoma Park's Equity Walk, funded by a Community Change Grant from America Walks, is the inspiration for Dan Neher's poem. Soon TP residents will be able to walk the walk, talk the talk, while playing and learning about equity. For more information or to volunteer, contact Lucy Neher at [lucyn@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:lucyn@takomaparkmd.gov) or visit <https://bit.ly/2GetVmM>.

## Walk the Walk, Talk the Talk

By Dan Neher

Hey all Takomans, here's something that's new on Takoma Park sidewalks, excepting a few Safe Routes to School has been changing the view.

Up Grant and down Holly - around that whole block a safe place where wee'uns are prompted to talk about matters germane to an equity walk.

Each station is mapped, with a prompt for a phone where empathy, community and sharing are shown and the seeds of inclusion are subtly sown.

To teachers and parents the resources there offer ways to impart what we can all share and method to the madness of loose-ing kids in fresh air.

A collaborative effort in need of allies, "America Walks" paid for paint and supplies and volunteers offered their time, hands and eyes.

So if you see children on sidewalks today hopping up Anne Street and acting all cray know that their antics are more than mere play... they're opening their minds as they go on their way.

**TAKOMA PARK  
ARTS  
ONLINE**

Arts events at the Takoma Park Community Center have been postponed so the Takoma Park Arts cultural series has moved online with new film screenings, concerts, and poetry readings. We also are sponsoring an outdoor concert series. You can find more details and sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at [takomaparkmd.gov/arts](http://takomaparkmd.gov/arts).



Shana Kohnstamm, *Kata*

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."



Samantha Viotty, *Nick Cave* BAHM



Michael G. Stewart, *Singing Cowboy*

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



Landry Dunand, *Phantomscatalog* (10 of 18)

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](http://takomaparkmd.gov/arts). The arts help keep us together even when we're apart.



# RECREATION

All virtual class links can be found on the Virtual Community Center page: [takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc](https://takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc).

## VIRTUAL CLASSES

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.

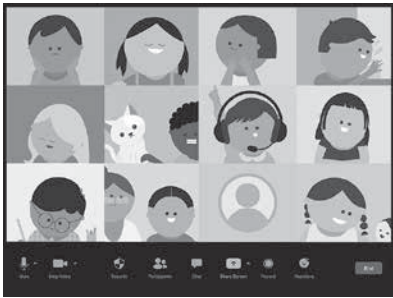
### TOTS

#### 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 classes and demonstrate for the younger children. Instructor: Carla Perlo  
4-6 years  
Thursdays, 5-5:30 p.m.  
Free

### YOUTH



##### 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/takomaparkrecreation#](https://apm.activecommunities.com/takomaparkrecreation#)

### 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

##### Horticulture & 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

### TEENS

#### EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

##### Madden NFL 21 Tournament (PS4)

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 [javontem@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:javontem@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 [javontem@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:javontem@takomaparkmd.gov)  
Virtual  
Ages 11-16  
December 3-December 10  
Thursdays, 5-6 p.m.  
Free

### ADULT

#### FITNESS



##### 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



##### 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

##### Meditation, Mudras & Tea

Meditation, Mudras and Tea is part class, part experience; dive into the world of guided meditation along with hand mudras, gestures that promote healing, psychological balance and spiritual awakening. The Sanskrit word "mudra" can be translated as "gesture," "seal," "attitude" or "signature," and the use of mudras has been incorporated into almost all wisdom traditions throughout the world and notably in yoga. Option to pair your meditation practice with a cup of tea (specific teas will be suggested to try but it's okay to go with your own) with teachings on that particular flower/herb as both a physical and mental healing aid, as well as how to use this calming time with tea to encourage your meditative/stress-decreasing experience. Instructor: Beth Mwano  
16 and older  
Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.  
Free

##### ReVamp Fit Home Workout

Fitness class will entail movements to work on your total body endurance, strength, and flexibility. Move with us to get your day started on a strong note! Instructor: Abel Asafere  
16 and older  
Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m.  
Free

RECREATION □ Page 11

## IN-PERSON CLASSES HAVE STARTED!

#### GUIDELINES

It is our utmost priority to keep our participants and staff safe by following the latest CDC guidelines.

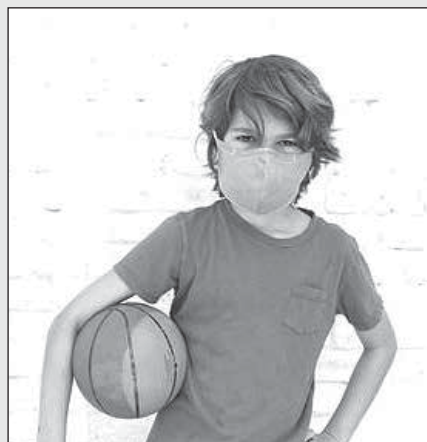
- Classes will take place outdoors and will be weather dependent.
- Registration is required for all in-person classes.
- Maximum of 8 participants, remaining at least 6 feet apart at all times (including during water breaks and explanation of drills, exercises, etc.)
- During class, the instructor and students are allowed to take off their masks when they are physically distant from others (6 or more feet). They must put on their mask before and after class or if they have to interact directly with a person closer than 6 feet.
- City of Takoma Park facilities remain closed to the public. Please keep in mind, there are no restroom facilities or water fountains available outdoors.
- No congregating before or after the program in areas such as parking lots, fields, playgrounds etc.
- No physical contact (high fives, huddles, etc.) with other participants.
- Participants shall bring the following items with them to programs:
  - Mask
  - Water
  - Hand Sanitizer
- Participants shall also consider bringing the following items with them to programs:
  - Sunscreen
  - Hat & Sunglasses
  - Bug spray
  - Any equipment necessary for the class

### 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 [leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:leiciam@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

#### MULTIMEDIA

##### Mobile Photography

Learn the secret formulas to capturing beautiful moments and memories for any occasion season on your phone. This course 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 7500 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.**

# City of Takoma Park Election Information

## Two Elections on November 3

- Presidential General Election
- City of Takoma Park Election

Your Takoma Park Election Ballot is separate from the Presidential Election process. Remember to vote in BOTH elections.



### Information Provided for the Takoma Park City Election Only

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Takoma Park Board of Elections is sending a City election ballot in the mail to every active registered voter in Takoma Park. Voters may return the ballot by mail in the enclosed prepaid envelope or drop their ballot in an Official Ballot Drop Box. There are two Official Ballot Drop Boxes for the City Election:

1. Takoma Park Community Center (7500 Maple Ave. - lower level parking lot)
2. Takoma Park Recreation Center - (7315 New Hampshire Ave.)

If you do not receive your ballot in the mail by **October 16**, email [elections@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:elections@takomaparkmd.gov) or call 301-891-7267.

**Absentee Ballots.** If you need your ballot sent to an out of town address, request an absentee ballot: <http://bit.ly/tp-absentee-app>.

**Emergency Absentee Ballot?** Contact [elections@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:elections@takomaparkmd.gov) or call 301-891-7267. All ballots must be received or postmarked by **November 3, 2020** in order to be counted.

**Vote on Election Day.** Drive through/walk through voting will be in the parking lot behind the Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Election Day voting will be available from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. on November 3.

## Habr  dos elecciones el 3 de Noviembre:

- Elecci n Presidencial
- Elecci n de la Ciudad de Takoma Park

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



### Informaci n Proporcionada solo para la Elecci n de Takoma Park

Debido a la pandemia COVID-19, la Junta Electoral de Takoma Park est  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 buz n oficial de votaci n. Hay dos buzones oficiales disponibles las 24 hrs al d a para la elecci n 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 recibe su boleta por correo antes del 16 de Octubre, env e un correo electr nico a [elections@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:elections@takomaparkmd.gov) o llame al 301-891-7214.

**Votaci n para los Votantes Ausentes.** Si necesita que su boleta sea enviada a una direcci n fuera de la ciudad, solicite una boleta de ausencia: <http://bit.ly/tp-absentee-app>.

** Votaci n de ausencia de emergencia?** Comun quese por correo electr nico a [elections@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto: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 D a de la Elecci n.** Votar desde su auto para su seguridad o en persona en el estacionamiento detr s del centro comunitario, 7500 Maple Ave. El d a de la elecci n municipal estar  disponible de 7 a.m. a 8 p.m. el 3 de Noviembre.



## Takoma Park

## Voter Registration for the Takoma Park City Election - Up To and Including Election Day

If you are already registered at an address in the City, you need not register again.

If you are not registered, you may register to vote in Takoma Park elections if you:

- are a resident of the City of Takoma Park;
- will be at least 16 years old on Election Day;
- do not claim the right to vote elsewhere;
- have not been convicted of buying or selling votes;
- are not under guardianship for mental disability or if you are, you have not been found by a court to be unable to communicate a desire to vote.



### **U.S. citizenship is not a requirement for voting in City of Takoma Park elections.**

Not everyone who registers to vote in City elections will be eligible to vote in county, state or national elections. Review the registration form carefully to understand the requirements for voting in the State of Maryland.

For registration information, call 301-891-7267 or email: [elections@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:elections@takomaparkmd.gov).

## Reg strese para Votar en las Elecciones de Takoma Park - Hasta e incluyendo el D a de la Elecci n

Si ya est  registrado como votante con su direcci n en Takoma Park, no necesita registrarse de nuevo. Si no est  registrado, puede registrarse para votar en las elecciones de Takoma Park si:

- son residentes de la ciudad de Takoma Park;
- tendr  al menos 16 a os el d a de la elecci n;
- no reclamen el derecho a votar en otro lugar;
- no han sido condenados por comprar o vender votos;
- no est  bajo cuidado por discapacidad mental y la corte judicial ha declarado que no puede comunicarse con o sin asistencia, en el deseo de participar en el proceso de votaci n.

### **Ciudadan a Estadounidense no es un requisito para votar en las elecciones de la ciudad de Takoma Park.**

No todos los que se inscriban para votar en las elecciones municipales ser n elegibles para votar en las elecciones estatales o nacionales. Revise atentamente el formulario de registro para entender los requisitos para votar en el estado de Maryland.

Para m s informaci n llame al 301-891-7214 o mande un mensaje electr nico al [elections@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:elections@takomaparkmd.gov).



| City Election Calendar  |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| Activity  | Date/Time  | Location  |
| If Mail-In Ballot Is Not Yet Received, Contact Us   | Friday<br>October 16   | Email:<br>elections@takomaparkmd.gov<br>or call 301-891-7267  |
| In-Person Voter Assistance, Voting, Replacement Ballots, Ballot Marking Devices, Registration | Daily<br>October 22 to November 2<br>9 a.m. – 5 p.m.                                 | Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave (rear entrance)<br><br>Call when you arrive or make an appointment.             |
| Ballot Return by Secure Drop Box  | Open anytime (24/7)<br>November 3<br>(Box is closed and sealed at 8pm on November 3) | Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue (Lower Level)<br><br>Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Avenue |
| Ballot Return by US Mail  | MAIL EARLY (must be postmarked on or before November 3)                              |   |
| Election Day In-Person Voting   | Tuesday<br>November 3<br>7 a.m. – 8 p.m.   | Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave<br>Rear parking lot   |
| Board of Elections Reports Election Certification   | Thursday<br>November 12<br>7:30 p.m.   | Remote Meeting on Zoom  |
| Mayor and Council Swearing In   | Monday<br>November 16<br>7:30 p.m.   | Remote Meeting on Zoom  |

| Calendario Electoral de Takoma Park  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Actividad  | Fecha/Hora   | Ubicación   |
| Si la boleta por correo aún no se recibe, contáctenos.   | Viernes<br>16 de Octubre   | Correo electrónico:<br>elections@takomaparkmd.gov o llame al 301-891-7214   |
| Asistencia electoral en persona, votación, boletas de reemplazo, sistema para marcar su boleta en línea, registro para votar | Diario<br>Del 22 de Octubre hasta el 2 de Noviembre<br>9 a.m. – 5 p.m.                                       | Centro Comunitario Takoma Park 7500 Maple Ave (entrada trasera)<br><br>Llama cuando llegues o haga una cita.                        |
| Devolución de boletas por buzón electoral segura   | Diariamente hasta el 3 de Noviembre<br><br>(el buzón se cerrará y será sellada a las 8pm del 3 de Noviembre) | Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park 7500 Maple Avenue (Nivel Inferior)<br><br>Centro Recreativo Takoma Park 7315 New Hampshire Avenue |
| Devolución de la boleta por correo postal  | Enviar por correo temprano (debe tener un matasellos el 3 de Noviembre o antes)                              |   |
| Votación en persona el Día de la Elección Municipal  | Martes<br>3 de Noviembre<br>7 a.m. – 8 p.m.  | Centro Comunitario Takoma Park 7500 Maple Ave<br>Estacionamiento trasero  |
| La Junta Electoral informa sobre la Certificación Electoral  | Jueves<br>12 de Noviembre<br>7:30 p.m.   | Reunión remota en Zoom  |
| Juramento del Alcalde y concejo  | Lunes<br>16 de Noviembre<br>7:30 p.m.  | Reunión remota en Zoom  |



# Need Assistance with City Voting, Voter Registration or City Election Questions?

In-person voter assistance for the Takoma Park Election will be available at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. from October 22 - November 2; 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., including weekends. Takoma Park residents may also register to vote on Election Day, November 3. If language assistance is needed, contact Irma Nalvarte at 301-891-7214 or irman@takomaparkmd.gov.

## ELECTION DAY - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

### Voting in the City of Takoma Park Election

If they haven't yet voted, residents can vote for Mayor and City Council on Tuesday, November 3, at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. For the safety of

voters and election workers, voting will take place outdoors on a drive-through/walk-through basis, in the parking lot behind 7500 Maple Avenue. Voting will be available from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### Voting in the Presidential General Election

To vote in person in the Presidential General Election, residents can vote during early voting at the Silver Spring Civic Building (1 Veterans Plaza), or at one of the other early voting centers in Montgomery County. Early voting is Monday, October 26 through Monday, November 2, 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. On Election Day, the closest voting locations to Takoma Park will be the Silver Spring Civic Building and Montgomery Blair High School. Election Day voting will be 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.



# ¿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 el Martes, 3 de Noviembre, en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue. 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.



## CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

### 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.



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, create a sustainable future, and more. We can and will do more because lasting change is not nibbling around the edges; it is setting ambitious goals and continuing to change how government functions.

[www.KateStewartforTakoma.com](http://www.KateStewartforTakoma.com)  
[@KateforTakoma](https://www.facebook.com/KateforTakoma)  
[@KateStewartforTakoma](https://www.instagram.com/KateStewartforTakoma)

### ROGER SCHLEGEL

My wife and I are high school teachers and 18+ year residents, with two children in MCPS schools. Trained and experienced in local government, I've helped lead my neighborhood association, the Cooperative Nursery School, the Takoma Junction task force, a city manager search, and other activist efforts. Our government must respect residents' expertise, spend wisely, and get the details right.

I'll lead the Council to give clear direction and strong oversight and to hold staff accountable for meeting objectives. My vision is of a community where people of



all ages, races, and income levels can afford to live within safe walking distance of everyday goods and services, and where programs, public spaces, and economic development build opportunities for people of color, advance green goals, and unify us. Early priorities include hiring a new manager prepared to support these goals and reorienting our public safety approach toward supporting residents' total well-being.

[Rogerfortakoma.org](http://Rogerfortakoma.org)  
**Facebook:** [Roger Schlegel for Mayor of Takoma Park](https://www.facebook.com/RogerSchlegelforMayorofTakomaPark)  
**Instagram:** [@roger\\_mayor](https://www.instagram.com/roger_mayor)

## WARD 1

### PETER KOVAR – INCUMBENT

Council service means communication: I've emphasized informing 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 reform.

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.peterkovarforcitycouncil.com](http://www.peterkovarforcitycouncil.com)

### 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 address 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](http://cindy4ward2.com), FB Cindy Dyballa and Twitter [@dyballa\\_2](https://twitter.com/dyballa_2).

[cindy4ward2.com](http://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](http://www.kacyfortakomapark.com)  
[kacyfortakomapark@gmail.com](mailto:kacyfortakomapark@gmail.com)  
[facebook.com/katherine.kostiuk](https://www.facebook.com/katherine.kostiuk),  
[twitter.com/kacykostiuk](https://twitter.com/kacykostiuk)

### 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 a queer, nonbinary, filmmaker and activist, who grew up right here in Tako-



ma 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 LG-BTQ+ organizers to help tell the stories that shape our world. I currently live on Cockerille with my family.

**They/Them**  
[www.OllyforTakoma.Org](http://www.OllyforTakoma.Org)

## WARD 4

### 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 the 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.

## 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 \$2,500 scholarship in 2015 to attend Montgomery College; and
- Delivered the Flower Avenue Green Street construction project.

**smithfortakomapark.com**  
**301-960-7462 (M)**  
**@JarrettSmith**

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

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

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

Coordinator for Health Information Technology. She has a bachelor's degree in Economics from Georgia State University and Master's degrees in Economics and Public Administration from the Syracuse University.

**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 opción, 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 corresponde con el orden de preferencia.

### Esta Información Se Encontrará En Todas Las Boletas

| Mayor<br>Alcalde                          | 1st choice<br>1a opción | 2nd choice<br>2a opción | 3rd choice<br>3a opción |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Roger Schlegel                            | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   |
| Kate Stewart                              | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   |
| Write-in candidate/candidato autonominado | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   |

### Each Ward Will Have A Different Council Contest

| Council – Ward 1<br>Concejo – Distrito 1  | 1st choice<br>1a opción | 2nd choice<br>2a opción |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Peter Kovar                               | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   |
| Write-in candidate/candidato autonominado | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   |

| Council – Ward 2<br>Concejo – Distrito 2  | 1st choice<br>1a opción | 2nd choice<br>2a opción |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cindy Dyballa                             | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   |
| Write-in candidate/candidato autonominado | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   |

| Council – Ward 3<br>Concejo – Distrito 3  | 1st choice<br>1a opción | 2nd choice<br>2a opción | 3rd choice<br>3a opción |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Kacy Kostiuik                             | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   |
| Olly Swyers                               | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   |
| Write-in candidate/candidato autonominado | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   |

### Cada Distrito Tendrá Un Concurso Para Concejo Distinto

| Council – Ward 4<br>Concejo – Distrito 4  | 1st choice<br>1a opción | 2nd choice<br>2a opción |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Terry Seamens                             | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   |
| Write-in candidate/candidato autonominado | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   |

| Council – Ward 5<br>Concejo – Distrito 5  | 1st choice<br>1a opción | 2nd choice<br>2a opción | 3rd choice<br>3a opción |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sawa Kamara                               | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   |
| Jarrett Smith                             | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   |
| Write-in candidate/candidato autonominado | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   |

| Council – Ward 6<br>Concejo – Distrito 6  | 1st choice<br>1a opción | 2nd choice<br>2a opción |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Talisha Searcy                            | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   |
| Write-in candidate/candidato autonominado | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/>   |



# RECREATION

All virtual class links can be found on the Virtual Community Center page: [takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc](https://takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc).

## RECREATION

■ From page 6



### Spirit Group Fitness

Class will be geared toward supporting all members of the community, as each class spotlights trainers leading versions of the exercises for those standing, seated, progressed, and exercising alongside a supporter (which is a great option for those with limited mobility or with a developmental disability). Truly, a person of any fitness and ability level can get a meaningful exercise experience from these classes. Instructor: Spirit Club  
16 and older  
New videos uploaded to the site each Wednesday [takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc](https://takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc)  
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: KJ 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 Chettri  
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

- Which platforms are best for your business
- Effective social media ads and how to set them up
- How to build a website layout that converts into sales
- 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

## 55+

### 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](mailto:javontem@takomaparkmd.gov) or call Ms. Paula at 240-687-4132.

## FITNESS

### Classic Foundational Fitness & Training

Classic is a virtual group exercise program that is appropriate for all age and skill levels, but especially for those who are new to fitness training. Classic 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. Classic utilizes a high back chair; light hand weights (1, 2, or 3-pound weights depending on fitness level) and/or a resistance tube. Instructor: Michael Williams  
55 and older  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10–11 a.m.  
Starting September 8  
Free



### Enhance Your Fitness

The class theme is posture and will focus on core strengthening utilizing various body strength training exercises. Instructor: Adriene 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

### “Zoomba” Gold

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



## LET'S GET READY!

# HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES

### FRI OCT 30 & SAT OCT 31

Events we are planning:

- Decorate Your Dwelling
- Virtual Magic Show
- Sligo Creek Walk & Chalk
- Small One Way Trick or Treat in Each Ward
- Virtual Event

Events will be small in order to follow CDC Guidelines.  
More information to come!



## Commit 2 B Well

By Leicia Monfort

This year has flown by so fast. We're already in October! For seven months, we've been staying cooped up, social distancing and following the CDC recommendations 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 overwhelmed and anxious about everything that has been happening around us. Can you say stressed? Thankfully, 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 active; 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 together. 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 Piney 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 [leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov). We will be following CDC guidelines for physical distancing for all in-person classes.

Special Note: Visit the Takoma Park Recreation Department Virtual Community Center at <https://bit.ly/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!

# LIBRARY



**PRONUNCIATOR**  
80+ language courses and  
English. Mobile apps.  
También en español  
**extra: citizenship  
preparation**

## 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](http://www.takomapark.info/library) and click on "catalog." Once you're in the catalog, click on "Advanced Search." Once there, scroll down a bit to find a section with three tabs: "Item Type," "Shelving Location" and "Collection." 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

the results to just kids or adult books, go to the section just above the "Language" button and 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.

## 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/tkpklibrarycard](http://tinyurl.com/tkpklibrarycard) 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 *Breathe* 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 *Maddi's Fridge* written by Lois Brandt 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents).

**Zoom Circle Time:** Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Meeting ID is 995-4901-8825 and Meeting Password is 178851.

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

**Zoom Spanish Circle Time:** Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Meeting ID is: 966-2757-5745 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 are offering 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, try to do so. For more info and to register for the program, please go to [www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents](http://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.



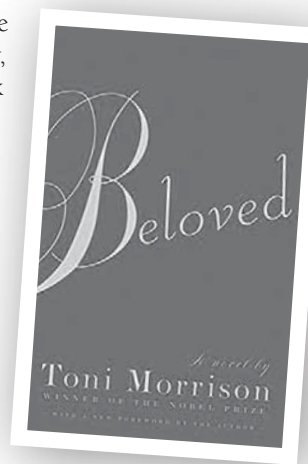
## Big Book Club Returns!

"Hooray! One of the pillars of literate 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 I. 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/98408454171?pwd=S25kSjJyTjdnKzdzVzRlRnRF RmpXUT09>. Or just go to HYPERLINK "<https://zoom.us/j/98408454171?pwd=S25kSjJyTjdnKzdzVzRlRnRF RmpXUT09>" put in this Meeting ID: 984 0845 4171 and this Meeting Password: 746434. The Zoom information also is available via the Takoma Park Big Book Club entry in our online Program Calendar, which can be found here: [www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents](http://www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents).

The 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](mailto:librarytakomapark@gmail.com). Check our catalog first to be sure a copy of the book is available.

## 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 Kaufeld

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 Arment

## Takoma Park Maryland Library

### Books-to-Go Pick-up Schedule

**Mondays: 12-2 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.**

**Wednesdays: 12-2 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.**

**Saturdays: 12-3 p.m.**

Call 301-580-0085 when you ARRIVE





Aあ

# Tree Care Tips

By Meg Smolinski, ISA Certified Arborist

Many of us in the Takoma Park area lost trees, specifically white oaks, last year. With so many of us at home now, interest in planting trees has increased. We are entering a good time of year to plant trees in general. Planting during the heat of summer stresses the tree too much, and planting in winter can be impossible with potential for the ground to freeze. Below are some considerations to keep in mind when planning for something that will last a lifetime.

- **Utility lines:** consider the size of the mature tree when deciding what to buy. Take a look at any overhead power or utility lines on your property but also consider how wide the tree may grow and any competition it may have from trees or shrubs next to it in your yard. When actually planting the tree, make sure that you aren't going to hit any utility lines at your house. Visit <https://call811.com> to learn more about getting your utilities marked before planting.
- **Planting holes:** These should be only as deep as the root ball of the tree, but should be twice as wide. If a tree is planted too deep, it will cover the root flare, which stresses the tree. Most of the tree's roots spread out like the base of a wineglass instead of diving down deep and loosening the soil in a wide circle encourages healthy root growth.
- **Container removal:** This may seem



- like common sense, but make sure to remove the container before planting the tree. We've seen many trees fail, and when they are removed, we've found the burlap and wire still circling the root ball. The roots aren't strong enough to burst through that material, and the tree will eventually die if it's not removed before planting.
- **Mulch rings:** Once you've packed the soil back in, creating a mulch ring around the new tree can help retain water, suppress weeds, and create a barrier that prevents mowers and trimmers from getting too close to the tender bark. Mulch shouldn't be piled up around the trunk, though. Just say "no" to mulch volcanoes, as this can cause many health problems in the tree.
  - **Watering schedule:** The last part of en-

suring planting success is watering. Make sure to keep the tree watered, but not water-logged during the growing season after planting. A tree that has been planted within three years will need about 25 gallons of water a week. Don't water the trunk of the tree, but rather place a hose one to two feet from the trunk and let the water trickle slowly for about an hour, shifting the hose around the tree a few times during that hour. Measuring how much water you're giving the tree using a five gallon bucket can be helpful as well. 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.

## 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](mailto: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 visual identification
- November 14:** Common pests, diseases and invasive species
- 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.

# 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:** Now is the time to add a layer of mulch around your trees. In the winter, mulch insulates the roots and provides nutrients. It helps the soil retain moisture, too. Even large and old trees benefit from adding a ring of mulch. The mulch should not touch the base of the tree. Apply mulch to a ring around the tree trunk. Remember the Rule of 3:
  - The mulch ring should extend 3 feet out from the trunk.
  - The mulch should start 3 inches from the trunk so that no mulch touches the tree.
  - The mulch should be 3 inches deep (but not more).Pro-tip: Have lots of leaves? Use them as a great mulch around your trees and across your garden beds.
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 with 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:** During the fall, your yard becomes covered

with leaves. What should you do with these leaves and other types of yard trim? Mulch it in the yard. Pile excess leaves as mulch across garden beds, or in a back corner of your yard. Lots of pollinators will overwinter on the leaves, too, so you are doing nature a favor. If there are still more than can be mulched, run your lawn mower across extra leaves to chop them into small bits, and let them feed your lawn. Recycle leaves, grass clippings,

## 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.

and garden prunings into a nutrient-rich soil amendment, better known as "black gold" or compost.

# Make a Difference - Plant a Tree

*Discount Trees Available to Beautify Yards, Replace the Tree Canopy*

The fall season is a good time to plant trees. Takoma Park residents can help replenish the aging tree canopy and take advantage of an incentive. The City will contribute \$100 towards the first tree purchased. Residents can have a 2" diameter tree installed by the City's landscape contractor for \$120 plus 6 percent sales tax, for a total of \$127.20. Additional trees will cost \$220 plus 6 percent sales tax. The trees are warrantied for one year. The \$100 discount is not available for a tree required by a tree removal permit replanting agreement. Residents can select a tree(s) from the following seven tree species: swamp white oak, willow oak, bald cypress, black gum, American linden, London Plane and river birch (single stem). Trees can be ordered through October 19. A limited number of grants are available for low- to moderate- income homeowners. In selecting a tree planting location, make sure to keep in mind the eventual size of the tree and pay attention to underground/overhead utilities, building foundations and walkways/sidewalks. Use the Right Tree Right Place principle for tree location selection: <https://bit.ly/2TDUpjD>. After your order has been received, the City's Urban Forest Manager will notify you of the planting date/time.

### 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   |
| _____ Bald Cypress (7' - 8') \$220 | _____ Black Gum (2") \$220    |
| _____ American Linden (2") \$220   | _____ London Plane (2") \$220 |
| + 6% sales tax                     | _____ River Birch (2") \$220  |

Total \_\_\_\_\_

**By Jim Jarboe**

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of September 28, 2020, 33 people died in fires compared to 45 in 2019.

As of September 28, 23 children across the country have died in hot vehicles. As we have said many, many times, not one of these should have happened. Put a reminder in the back seat, a wallet, or cell phone, whatever it takes. Finally, make sure everyone leaves the vehicle when you leave it and don't forget to lock it.

- 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.



There are three important actions you and your family can take during this time:

1. Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
2. Review your family fire escape plan with the entire family.
3. Take a walk throughout your home, checking for potential hazards.

■ 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 from having a ring of mulch around them extending as far out as the tree's branches.

Less reliance on the city's vacuum collection program could reduce the City's carbon footprint associated with the leaf collection program and its use of diesel and gasoline powered equipment. The

City's annual allocation for leaf collection adds \$83,000 to the City's budget. The changes proposed this year will result in a slight reduction in program costs. While the expenditures for seasonal labor will be eliminated, additional overtime costs for staff will be incurred due to the extended collection period. However, if more residents were willing to mulch their leaves on their yards and forgo the vacuum, it could result in reduced annual expenditures in the future.

Special thanks to Colleen Cordes and Gina Mathias for assistance with this article



**English:**

Look for this icon next to newsletter articles that you can read online in other languages using the translation feature on the City of Takoma Park's website. After clicking on the link for the article, look in the upper right hand corner of the web page next to the navigation bar, and select the language you want using the drop-down box.

**French:**

Recherchez cette icône à côté des articles du bulletin que

vous pouvez lire en ligne dans d'autres langues à l'aide de la fonction de traduction disponible sur le site Web de la ville de Takoma Park. Après avoir cliqué sur le lien de l'article, regardez dans le coin supérieur droit de la page Web à côté de la barre de navigation, puis sélectionnez la langue souhaitée à l'aide du menu déroulant.

**Spanish:**

Busque este ícono junto a los artículos del boletín que puede leer en línea en otros idiomas usando

la función de traducción en el sitio web de la Ciudad de Takoma Park. Después de hacer clic en el enlace del artículo, busque en la esquina superior derecha de la página web junto a la barra de navegación y seleccione el idioma que desee con el cuadro desplegable.

**Amharic:**

ከጉዳዩ ያለውን ይህን አይ ይፈልጉ  
የዛሬ ማጽሐፍተኛ አከላከያ ራሳቸው ናቸው  
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ማንበብ ይቻላል  
ትርጉሙን በመጠቀም  
በ ታላቁ ኩሳሚ ውስጥ ያለውን በህሊ  
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**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.

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 household 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.

- Aerosols
- Antifreeze
- Batteries
- Cleaners
- Degreasers
- E-waste
- Fluorescent lights (see Light Recycle)
- Household cleaners
- Medications
- Motor oil
- Paint
- Pesticides
- Sharps
- Solvents
- Thinners

- 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

Montgomery County relies on a Hazardous Materials Commodity Flow Study which provides a “snapshot” of hazardous materials flowing through the County by motor carrier, rail, pipeline, and air and also includes chemicals stored in large volumes. Montgomery County’s Office of Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security and other County agencies use this actionable information to provide protective actions to evacuate or shelter-in-place during a chemical incident or release. A redacted version of the Study may be available to Takoma Park residents upon request to the County.

Hazardous materials spills - including biological, chemical, and radiological - pose a serious risk if not promptly and properly responded to by the individuals who initially identify the spill and the appropriate emergency response staff. If you suspect a spill or leak in your neighborhood, evacuate the spill area and call 9-1-1. In the event of a large incident, follow instructions from Montgomery County emergency agencies which may include evacuation or shelter-in-place, depending on the nature of the incident.

*This month's guest author is Laura Johnson, president of Training Outreach. Website: [www.trainingoutreach.com/about-us](http://www.trainingoutreach.com/about-us)*

*It is easy to contact us at [tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7126. Join us at "Talk of Takoma" on WOWD/LP 94.3 at 1 p.m., the first Sunday of the month for "Dear Bea(trice) Prepared."*



# So Many Memories

*Editor's Note: This is 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](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov).*

—Apyrl Motley

*"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 pangs 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



*The author returning from a climate change protest.*

- 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 wildness 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](mailto:keith.kozloff@verizon.net).)



## City of Takoma Park Planning and Community Development



### 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](https://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 [tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tpnewseditor@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](http://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/arts-and-humanities).

# 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.

Detailed agendas are available for review online at [www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas).

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 the City Council Video Page of the City Website (<https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/meetings-and-documents/city-council-video/>)
- 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](mailto: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](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov).

# 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@revelsdc.org](mailto:info@revelsdc.org); [revelsdc.org/2020/daily-song](http://revelsdc.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.

## Documentary Filmmaking Workshop for Adults 55+: My Life on Video

October 12–October 21 (Times were being finalized at press time.)

This popular 55+ filmmaking workshop will be led once again by teaching artist favorite Olia Onyshko. In this workshop, students will learn to produce their own short video from writing to filming to editing. Your final product will also premiere at our Community Stories Festival scheduled for November 6–8. Participants may use their own cameras, phones or tablets. For an additional \$50 fee, Docs can issue a loaner iPad. Registration Fee for City of Takoma Park residents is \$150; non-resident registration is \$250. Register via Eventbrite and [www.docsinprogress.org](http://www.docsinprogress.org). This Filmmaking Workshop and Community Stories Festival are supported in part by the City of Takoma Park.

# COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

## Black Student Fund and the Latino Student Fund 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 BSF/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](http://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.

# 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 30 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 Drawdown — Reversing Global Warming

Thursday, Oct. 29, noon – 1:30 p.m.  
Pachamama Alliances' Project Drawdown 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 Drawdown 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](http://villageoftakomapark.com) for more information.*

# STAY ACTIVE

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

## ReVamp Fit Home Workout

Fitness class will entail movements to work on your total body endurance, strength, and flexibility. Instructor: Abel Asafere  
Wednesdays, 10–11 a.m.

## "Zoomba" 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.

## 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, balance, strength training and cardiovascular exercise in one dynamic session. Instructor: KJ Total Fitness  
Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.

## Recess

Here's an opportunity for youth to virtually participate in exercise and communicate with their peers while remaining inside. Instructor: Charonne Butler  
Saturdays, 10–10:30 a.m.