



## WHAT'S NEW?

**Online Folk Festival**  
p. 5

**Virtual Play Day**  
p. 12

**Election Update**  
p. 7

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

## Equity Walk Takes Shape



What are these fun activities popping up around town? It's the Equity Walk! Funded by a Community Change Grant from America Walks, Takoma Park's Equity Walk is beginning to take shape. With social distancing protocols in place, volunteers, like Diana McCown (pictured here), have started installing the stencils for the walk. 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).

## Back to the Books: New Titles at the Library

Our building is closed, but we continue to purchase new books to keep our collection up-to-date. Because patrons can't browse our new offerings in person, however, it's been hard to let you know what great new books we have. As school begins, students of all ages might be looking to refresh their reading lists. So here's a start!



For adults, here's a list of some new and well-reviewed adult fiction that is available through our "Books-to-Go" program (see page 11):

- *Perfect Little Children* by Sophie Hannah
- *These Ghosts are Family* by Maisy Card
- *Sharks in the Time of Savior* by Kawai Strong Washburn
- *The Authenticity Project* by Clare Pooley
- *Strike Me Down* by Mindy Perfect Mejia
- *Oona Out of Order* by Margarita Montimore
- *The Illness Lasso* by Clare Beams
- *Swimming in the Dark* by Tomasz Jedrowski

For a look at new children's and teen books available at the library, check out this blog post on Children's and Teen Services Coordinator Karen MacPherson's blog, Chil-

## Revised Tree Ordinance Goes Into Effect October 27, 2020

On July 29, 2020, the City Council approved revisions to the City's Tree Ordinance. The City Council had included revising the Tree Ordinance and establishing a Tree Canopy Goal in both the 2019 and 2020 Council Priorities list. This article will outline the changes to the Tree Ordinance that Council passed on July 29.



Willow Oak leaves

Prior to crafting new Ordinance language, the City circulated a sur-

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

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

 **#TogetherTKPK**

**NEW BOOKS**  
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## Inside



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# 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, September 16, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 23, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 30, 7:30 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).

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

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

#### ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION

Tuesday, September 22, 7 p.m.

#### BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, September 10, 7 p.m.

Thursday, September 24, 7 p.m. (tentative)

#### COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, September 14, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, September 24, 7 p.m. (special meeting)

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

#### COMPLETE SAFE STREETS COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 10, 7 p.m.

#### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 24, 7 p.m.

#### FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, September 8, 6:30 p.m.

#### NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 8, 7:30 p.m.

#### PARKING MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

To Be Announced

#### POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, September 21, 7 p.m.

#### RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 17, 7 p.m.

#### TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, September 8, 6:45 p.m. (Meeting)  
Thursday, September 24, 6:45 p.m. (Appeal Hearing)

#### 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.

## City Council Action

*Only negative votes or abstentions are reported here. Resolutions and ordinances are published online after adoption.*

On **May 20, 2020**, the City Council adopted the FY21 tax rates by **Ordinance 2020-9** (\$0.5397 per \$100 of assessed valuation for real property, \$1.55 per \$100 of assessed valuation for business personal property, and \$1.57 per \$100 of assessed valuation for railroad and public utilities). Councilmembers Kovar and Smith voted against. By **Ordinance 2020-10**, the Council adopted the FY21 stormwater management budget. The FY21 budget was adopted by **Ordinance 2020-11**. Councilmember Smith voted against the budget.

The Council adopted **Ordinance 2020-12** authorizing the installation of traffic calming on the 7300 block of Wildwood Drive and **Ordinance 2020-13** authorizing the installation of traffic calming on the 7600 block of Wildwood Drive on **June 3, 2020**. At the same meeting, the Council adopted **Resolution 2020-13** supporting small businesses and advancing public health by allowing the use of public and private space for outdoor seating, sales, and customer pickup.

On **June 17, 2020**, the Council awarded contracts for engineering services to Rummel, Klepper & Kahl (by **Ordinance 2020-14**) and Whitman, Requardt and Associates (by **Ordinance 2020-15**). The engineering services are used for ongoing sidewalk and street

restoration work and traffic calming. The Council also awarded a contract in an amount up to \$45,000 for the Lunch and Learn Program by **Ordinance 2020-16** to Community Health and Empowerment Through Education and Research (CHEER), and awarded a contract for election services to IVS, LLC for ballot scanning and tabulation, ballot marking devices, and for electronic ballot delivery by **Ordinance 2020-17**. The contract is for an amount up to \$12,500.

Kathleen O'Toole was reappointed as Poet Laureate for a two-year term by **Resolution 2020-14** on **July 8, 2020**.

At the meeting on **July 22, 2020**, the City Council adopted **Resolution 2020-15** setting principles and overarching goals for tree canopy and urban forest policies. Also, on July 22, the Council approved submission of Maryland Municipal League legislative action

CITY COUNCIL ACTION □ Page 3

### Notice of Takoma Park Nominating Caucus Tuesday, September 15, 2020 – 7:30 p.m.

The Nominating Caucus will convene at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15, to accept nominations of candidates for mayor and councilmember. The meeting will take place in a remote/virtual format. The meeting is open to all registered voters. Others are welcome to view the meeting. Only qualified voters of the city may place names in nomination or second a nomination.

At the meeting, nominations of candidates for mayor may be made on motion of any voter of the City, and if another voter seconds that nomination, the nominee will be considered a candidate. Nomination of each candidate for councilmember may be made on motion of any voter of their ward, and if that nomination is seconded by a voter of the ward, the person so nominated will be considered a candidate. The order of nominations will be published before the meeting.

A person may only accept nomination of one office. The name of each nominee that meets the qualifications of the office shall be placed on the ballot for the November 3, 2020 City Election, unless the nominee declines the nomination by 5 p.m. on Friday, September 18.

Please contact Jessie Carpenter, 301-891-7267 or [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov) with any questions regarding the Nominating Caucus or running for office in Takoma Park.

### Aviso de la Reunión de Nominaciones de Takoma Park Martes, 15 de Septiembre del 2020 – 7:30 p.m.

La Reunión de Nominaciones se lleva a cabo a las 7:30 p.m. el Martes, 15 de Septiembre para aceptar las nominaciones de candidatos para alcalde y miembro del concejo. La reunión tendrá lugar en un formato remoto/virtual. La reunión está abierta a todos los votantes registrados. Otros son bienvenidos a ver la reunión. Las nominaciones de candidatos pueden realizarse por moción solo por votante capacitado de la ciudad.

En la reunión, las nominaciones de candidatos para Alcalde pueden realizarse por moción de cualquier votante de la ciudad y si la misma es secundada, la persona nominada será considerada como candidato. La nominación para miembro del concejo puede realizarse por moción de cualquier votante de su distrito y si la misma es secundada, la persona nominada será considerada como candidato. El orden de las nominaciones se publicará antes de la reunión. Una persona sólo puede aceptar la nominación de un cargo. El nombre de cada candidato que cumpla con los requisitos de su cargo se colocará en la boleta para la elección municipal del 3 de Noviembre del 2020, a menos que el candidato declina la nominación antes de las 5 p.m. el Viernes, 18 de Septiembre.

Para información en Español, comuníquese con Irma Nalvarte, 301-891-7214 o [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov) con cualquier pregunta con respecto a la Reunión de Nominaciones o a postularse para el cargo de alcalde o miembro del concejo en Takoma Park.

### Notice of City Election – Tuesday, November 3, 2020

The City Election will take place on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. In the second week of October, registered voters will be mailed a ballot to be marked and returned to a secure ballot box or by U.S. mail. See page 7 for additional information.

### Aviso de Elección Municipal – Martes, 3 de Noviembre de 2020

La elección municipal de Takoma Park tendrá lugar el Martes, 3 de Noviembre del 2020. Para proteger a los residentes y trabajadores electorales, la elección se llevará a cabo principalmente por correo. Para más información vea página 7.

## Vacancies on the Tree Commission

There will be three vacancies on the five-member Tree Commission as of September 30. The Tree Commission hears appeals from tree permit decisions, provides advice to the City Council related to trees, and promotes the aesthetic and environmental value of preserving and protecting the tree canopy. The Commission meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:45 p.m. For information about the Tree Commission,

view: <https://bit.ly/tree-commission>. If you are interested in applying, contact your City Councilmember or the Public Works Director, Daryl Braithwaite ([daryl@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:daryl@takomaparkmd.gov)). The application can be completed online: <https://takomapark.seamlessdocs.com/f/CommitteeApplication>. **Application deadline: Friday, September 11.** Residents from Wards 4, 5, and 6 are especially encouraged to apply.





TREE ORDINANCE
From page 1

vey which received over 500 responses asking for comments about various aspects of the City's tree laws. These comments, as well as input from the Committee on The Environment, Tree Commission and many residents, informed the Council's discussion on various changes to the law. In October 2018, the Council developed the process for reviewing the Ordinance. Councilmembers Cindy Dyballa (Ward 2), Kacy Kostiuk (Ward 3), and Peter Kovar (Ward 1) served as the working group. The process began in earnest on June 19, 2019. Additional Council Work Sessions on the topic were held July 22, 2019; September 11, 2019; October 16, 23 and 30, 2019; November 13, 2019; February 12, 2020; July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2020. Among the Council's goals for the revised ordinance was to make it user friendly and easier to understand.



Councilmember Cindy Dyballa



Councilmember Kacy Kostiuk



Councilmember Peter Kovar

The effective date of the new Tree Ordinance is October 27, 2020. Information on the tree permit process will be updated on the City's website and application forms to meet the October 27 date. The revisions that will go into effect October 27 include:

- Formalized and clarified requirements for tree removal and protection on City owned land

- Simplified the permit process by eliminating the concept of waivers and requiring permits for all tree removals, whether the tree is dead, hazardous or alive
- Reduced the replanting requirement for trees in decline and trees impacting permanent structures. Previously only dead or hazardous trees required no replanting, and trees in decline and trees impacting structures required 1% replacement of the canopy. The new law will require a single tree replant for trees in decline and no replant for trees impacting a permanent structure
- Added a certification requirement for applicants that elect to replant on site instead of paying the fee in lieu to verify replanting has occurred
- Moved the application fee from the ordinance to regulation. The permit fee is likely to remain unchanged – Tree Removal applications: \$25 for dead or hazardous trees, \$50 for living trees, and Tree Impact Assessment and Tree Protection Plan \$50 each.
- Revised the factors used when evaluating a tree removal request

- Revised the tree rating chart used to determine tree replanting requirements from a 6 criteria scale to 4 criteria. The new criteria are more in line with industry standards for tree evaluation
- Required applicants applying to remove more than 10 trees to hold a community meeting prior to submittal of the application and specifying associated notification requirements
- Defined the process for notifying the City in cases where emergency action is required and a tree is impacted and specified the required steps to be followed
- Established that the amount of the fee in lieu of replanting is to cover the installed market value of a tree, plus 2 years of maintenance to include watering, deer fence and protection for infestations. The fee amount is to be set in regulation. The per tree replanting fee is likely to increase from \$175 to \$325
- Increased the percentage of live branches that can be trimmed without requiring a tree impact assessment from 5% to 10%
- Specified that appeals on Tree Protection Plan applications can only be submitted by adjacent property owners who have a tree that could be impacted by the proposed activity
- Clarified that the Tree Fund can be used to plant trees on public and private property, as well as maintain trees, and specified that planted trees should be native species or climate adaptive species to the extent possible
- Removed the Pre-Planting Credit program, however all previously submitted applications remain valid

Tree Removal Application Filing Available Online

Tree removal applications can now be filed online via MY TKPK - takomaparkmd.gov/services/my-tkpk. This enables you to apply and pay the fee online. The evaluation and preliminary approval or denial is sent directly to the applicant's email thereby shortening response time and providing all the information in one place.



CITY COUNCIL ACTION
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requests by Resolution 2020-16. On July 29, 2020, the Council adopted Charter Amendment Resolution 2020-1 enabling the city's election to be conducted by mail. Ordinance 2020-20 was adopted, amending the Election Code to accommodate a vote by mail election. The Council adopted Ordinance 2020-21 setting forth the details of the 2020 City election. The Council completed a major rewrite of the Tree Ordinance by adoption of Ordinance 2020-22. The first budget amendment of FY21 was authorized by Ordinance 2020-23. The FY21 stormwater budget was amended by adoption of Ordinance 2020-24. Resolution 2020-17 was adopted to authorize individual Councilmembers to join the Amici Curiae Brief to be filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia seeking review and rejection of the FCC's December 2019 Rules and Policies related to human

exposure to radio frequency electromagnetic fields. Councilmembers Smith and Kovar voted against the resolution. The Council adopted an emergency ordinance (Ordinance 2020-25) extending terms of eligible members of City boards, commissions and committees to June 30, 2021. Resolution 2020-12 was modified by Resolution 2020-18. The resolutions relate to suspending and gradually phasing in quasi-judicial hearings for the Tree Commission, Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs, and other boards and commissions that hold such hearings. Resolution 2020-19 was adopted. The resolution provided for appointments to the Youth Council: Dakota Rodriguez Pippins and August Vanskike from Ward 1, Emmeline Brown and Xavier Ohnona from Ward 2, Marusya Airumian and Julia Maynard from Ward 3, Noah Protas from Ward 4, Annika Iwugo and Eliza Van Camp from Ward 5, and Diego Morales Gatica and Asha Henry from Ward 6. By adoption of Resolution 2020-20, the City Council set forth dates of its summer recess to extend from July 30 through September 15, 2020. Council meetings resume on September 16, 2020.



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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—

Two Vacancies on Chief's Advisory Board for Individuals Aged 16-21

Chief Antonio DeVaul of the Takoma Park Police Department announces that there are two vacancies on the Police Chief's Advisory Board for individuals aged 16 to 21. The board meets on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Currently, the meetings take place over Zoom. In the future, they would take place at the Takoma Park Community Center. For information about the Board and its current members, visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/community-policing/chiefs-advisory-board-members. If you are between the ages of 16 and 21, please submit a letter of interest to Cathy Plevy at cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov or mail to Chief Antonio DeVaul, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912. The board is briefed on all activities of the police department and brings issues and concerns to the chief's attention. The board will be actively involved in the design and implementation of the fu-



ture public safety model in Takoma Park. All applicants will be interviewed by the Chief of Police. The City of Takoma Park is committed to serving all members of the Takoma Park community, irrespective of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or citizenship status. Chief DeVaul's intent for the Advisory Board is that its members represent the diversity that makes our city a welcoming place to live and work. We look forward to listening to and discussing youth concerns in our community.





# BUILDING COMMUNITY



## 7 Myths and a Truth about Licensing Your Unlicensed Rental Property

- 1. The City will never know.** The Housing Department gets calls all the time from tenants living in unlicensed basement apartments, whole houses, or even a few rooms within a larger unit. We also hear from City and County officials and other residents. These calls and complaints come to the City when your neighbors begin to see new people at your home, your tenants are noisy or disruptive, and/or there are maintenance issues at the property. The landlord doesn't make repairs on time, doesn't return the security deposit, or doesn't provide proper notice for entry.
- 2. I'm a great landlord; that will never happen.** Demonstrate that you are a great landlord by licensing your rental property. Completing the licensing program protects you and the health and safety of the tenant. Often, tenants do not know that they are renting an unlicensed property until they contact the housing department with a problem or a question. What starts as a good landlord and tenant relationship could end poorly. Landlords without rental licenses have no standing in court to proceed with an eviction and may unnecessarily expose themselves to liability because they have not had the rental property inspected before a tenant takes possession. Protect yourself and get a license.
- 3. The rental licensing process is way too complicated.** The requirements for a rental housing license are completing an application, paying a licensing fee (this year it is \$110 per unit), passing a lead risk inspection, a code-compliance inspection to make sure the property is up to health and safety standards, and a one-hour online course to acquaint you with local, County, and State laws regarding rental property. That's it.
- 4. But the County permit process is the hard part, right?** If you are licensing an apartment inside your residence or an addition to your residence, you do need to also apply to the County for permission for this Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU). The application process has been streamlined and the regulations eased to allow for many more ADUs than in the past.
- 5. The City or County will be at my property all the time.** Renewal of a rental license requires a new code-compliance inspection. County inspectors conduct these inspections on behalf of the City. If your property is in good shape, this happens once every two years; otherwise it is an annual inspection. If you maintain your property and conduct your rental business properly, that's it.
- 6. I'll get hit with a big fine if I admit to having an unlicensed rental.** Not if you get it licensed. If the City contacts you because the existence of the unlicensed rental has been flagged, you are given two weeks to submit the initial license application without penalty. If you voluntarily come forward and start the process, there is no penalty.
- 7. The City won't let me charge what I want for rent.** Takoma Park's rent stabilization law does not apply to single family homes or ADUs. It does apply to individual condominium units and multiunit properties (two or more rental units), but you set the initial rent.

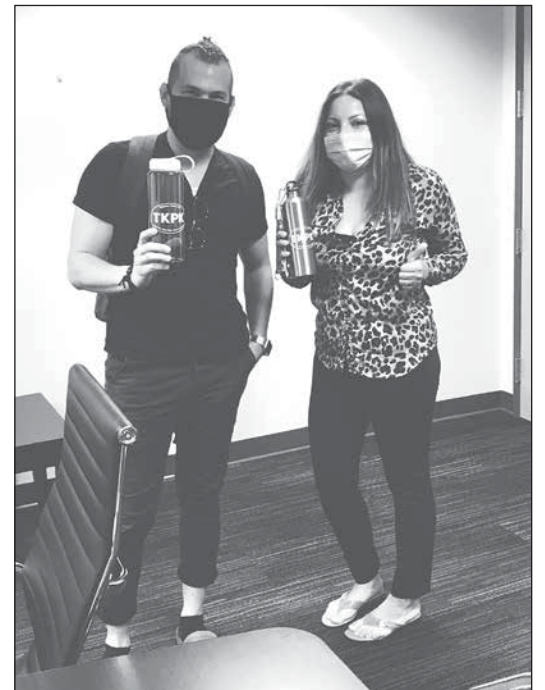
**The truth: The Housing Department is here to help.** If you want to learn more about licensing your rental property, start with our Rental Licensing web page. Go to [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) and search on Rental Housing Licensing. Still have questions? Email Licensing Specialist Patti Mallin at [pattim@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:pattim@takomaparkmd.gov) or call 240-315-6721.

## New Home Stretch Program Recipient

Congratulations to Mr. Edwin Andino, who purchased his Lee Avenue condominium home using both the City's Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Law and the City's Home Stretch down payment assistance program. We are delighted to see these programs used in concert to help make homeownership in Takoma Park a reality for Mr. Andino.

For more information about the Home Stretch Program, please visit the program page on the City's website or reach out to the City's Grants Coordinator, Jennifer Hale, via email at [JenniferH@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:JenniferH@takomaparkmd.gov).

Pictured: Edwin Andino and his realtor, Lily Ardilla, at closing sporting masks and Takoma Park goodies.



## Weed Warriors Wanted

While most of us have reduced our activity and are maintaining social distance to protect ourselves and our neighbors, the weeds have not. The City is currently working with reduced staffing levels, and our public gardens and planted areas are suffering as a result. If you have the time and interest, the gardens and public planted areas could use your help. Please contact the Public Works Department at 301-891-7615 if you would like to volunteer to do weeding or spreading mulch in a garden or planted area near your home. The City may be able to provide some hand tools and the mulch and also guidance by phone or from a safe distance.



## The Play Book

Let's Play America has created a Play Day Handbook, which is available online at [www.letsplay-america.org](http://www.letsplay-america.org). Anyone interested can make a donation of \$20.20 to receive this valuable resource. You might be in a video if you attended a Play Day, maybe your daughter or son was a teen volunteer or maybe you want to know how to plan a Play Day. This handbook is for anyone that values play. Consider making a donation and receive the Play Day Handbook or donate on the website what you can at this time. Play is universal and everyone deserves to play!





## 2020 Takoma Park Folk Festival Goes Online

By Kevin Adler

The 2020 Folk Festival is going virtual, with six hours of programming that will be shown online from 7–10 p.m. on September 13 and 20.

The festival will be a mix of six new performances taped at Takoma Park's own Tonal Park studio this summer, which will be complemented by archival festival footage celebrating more than 40 years of this community event. Both nights will be hosted by a live emcee and provide a format for audience participation.

"We knew back in the spring that the in-person folk festival would be impossible this year," said Chair Robin Stearn, "but we weren't going to give up entirely.

We've got a great lineup of new performances, and we've even got a few 'extras' lined up to give a taste of the full festival."

The theme will be "Voices Heard," which Program Committee Chair Rob Hinkal said "reflects both our determination to have a celebration and our support for inclusion of the many 'voices' in our society."

Despite the scaled-down program, the festival will bring an eclectic mix, as always. The six performers are Baltimore-based soul trio Big Little Band; North American traditional music from Lisa Null; Americana from Naked Blue; and remarkable guitarist Yasmin Williams. For people who are inclined to dance in their living rooms, the gypsy jazz of Orchester Prazevica and a blend of rock, funk, hip hop, R&B, folk, go-go, and country from Most Savage Gentlemen will



Above, Big Little Band  
Below, Most Savage Gentlemen



Yasmin Williams

provide more than enough tempo.

"But wait—there's more!" said Stearn. Instead of just showing performances present and past, other aspects of the festival will come to life as well. "On the Festival's website and during the two evening shows on the 13th and 20th, we will have links to community organizations working on social justice. Their work is so important, especially today, and we want to keep them at the forefront," Stearn said. "We've invited some of our most popular crafts artisans to sell their work through the TPFF website as well."

There's even a possibility (still in development as the *City News-Letter* went to press) to coordinate special take-out dinners with local restaurants. "The idea is to order in advance and spend the evening online with the festival," Stearn said.

All of it is an experiment, Stearn and Hinkal admitted. But they are optimistic that the pieces will come together. "We wanted to keep up the tradition," Hinkal said, "and we couldn't have done it without a lot of community support. A big thanks goes out to Charlie Pilzer and Tonal Park for donated studio time, Takoma TV for access to its video archives, and to Montgomery County's Arts and Humanities Commission for funding this year." For the full performance, crafts and community tables information, to follow the Takoma Park Folk Festival on social media or at TPFF.org.



Students at the Richardson School of Music have been doing lessons virtually while social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Richardson School of Music keeps the melody going

By Sean Gossard

With the coronavirus pandemic looming in early March, Vincent Richardson and the Richardson School of Music could see the writing on the wall.

So, by the time Maryland announced its official shut-down to quarantine from COVID-19, the Takoma Park music school was already hosting virtual classes to keep both teachers and students safe.

"We did a complete shift virtually," said Richardson, the school's director. "Everybody's been teaching from home for the past few months."

While the move was mostly smooth for the teachers, Richardson said the pandemic along with the summer season lull has still hurt the school. "It's been seamless in getting teachers to be able to work from home," Richardson said, "but we have lost a few students in the process. We're still struggling like all businesses."

To help with social distancing measures, the Richardson School of Music began ofid. "We'd love to get students from Spain, from Mali from anywhere really." There are group and private lessons available.

Beginning in the June, the school hosted a series of summer workshops, which have featured Grammy-nominated artists Eric Roberson and Jazzmeia Horn as well as music producers and promoters. The workshops are free, but donations are appreciated. "We had some truly great artists give talks," Richardson said.

Classes are open to children, teens and adults of all experiences, and there are a vast range and styles of instrumental and voice instructions. "Popular instruments are piano, guitar, voice, but we do them all and have wonderful teachers," Richardson said. "We actually are in the process of hiring a harp teacher."

The future is still up in the air for Richardson School of Music, which opened in Takoma Park in 2013 and has since expanded at its Carroll Ave. location. While public schools may be returning in-person in some fashion in the fall, for the foreseeable future, virtual learning will be the new normal at the music school. "We're going to ride this out and see," Richardson said. "I've talked with all of my teachers and staff, and people really don't feel comfortable coming back."

But he says the support of the Takoma Park community has played a major role in the school's success in the past and hopefully future. "We've had really steady growth and great support from the community," Richardson said. "I hope that it continues." Richardson School of Music received financial assistance from the Takoma Park Business Mini-Grant Fund for COVID Relief.

If you're interested in taking a virtual class from Richardson School of Music, visit [www.richardsonschoolofmusic.com](http://www.richardsonschoolofmusic.com)

## 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).

## Powerful Poetry

**"Confronting Difficult Truths" Online Poetry Reading**  
Thursday, Sept. 10, 8 p.m.

Four local poets will share their timely work, which challenges the status quo and our preconceptions about immigrants, the marginalized, and our conflicted history as a nation. The featured poets include Randy Bridgeman, Christine Higgins, Bonnie Naradzay, and Maggie Rosen. Go to <https://zoom.us/j/91789237144> to see the reading and take part in a Q&A.

The reading was organized by the City of Takoma Park's Takoma Park Arts cultural series.

## Black Voices in Verse Online Poetry Reading

Three local Black poets share their powerful work challenging white privilege and pervasive racism, including Saida Agostini, Kyle Dargan, and Emily Kombe. Don't miss this timely reading where poetry is used as a voice for protest and social justice. Watch online at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=DjqlemK51Fo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DjqlemK51Fo).



# Make a Difference - Plant a Tree

*Discount Trees Available to Beautify Yards, Replace the 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.



photo by Piper Vernon-Clay

Additional trees will cost \$220 plus 6 percent sales tax. The trees are warranted 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 _____	



## What about my neighbor's trees?

Maryland has adopted the "Massachusetts Self-Help Rule" that says you must assume responsibility for the care and preservation of your own property:

- This means that you can cut branches from a tree on your neighbor's property that extends into your property.
- Always notify the tree owner first. However, you may not destroy the tree in the process, nor can you cut the tree down.
- Also, you must stop at the property line unless the neighbor has given you permission. It is best to have that permission in writing.

When a tree or its branches fall, it is considered an "Act of God," unless the tree was known to be dead or hazardous:

- This means the portion of the tree and the damage from it that is on your property is your responsibility to clean up.
- The portion of the tree that ends up on a neighbor's property and any damage to the neighbor's properties is their responsibility.



Such accidents are normally covered by the affected owner's home owner's insurance and are usually resolved by reporting a claim. The exception to this general rule is that the owner of the property where the tree originated may be responsible for damage to a neighbor's property if the owner knew, or had good reason to know,

that the tree presented a danger.

The City of Takoma Park encourages neighbors to discuss tree issues long before tree failure becomes a problem and responsibility for any damage becomes part of the discussion. If your neighbor's tree is hazardous, you have communicated that to your neighbor and your neighbor is not addressing the issue, then the City may step in and require the neighbor to have the hazard mitigated.

A tree whose trunk (even a small portion of the trunk) straddles the property line may be a shared tree, a shared responsibility, and therefore any cost for pruning, maintenance or removal would be a shared cost.

The City Code allows for the issuance of a notice of violation to the property owner requiring the hazardous tree issue to be addressed within a certain time frame. For those property owners who have limited income, the city has established an Emergency Tree Fund to assist with the costs of removal of a hazardous tree. Residents can apply for those funds by contacting [urbanforestmanager@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:urbanforestmanager@takomaparkmd.gov).

## TREE ORDINANCE

■ From page 3

- Specified the information to be included in the Urban Forest Manager's annual report to the Council. The report must include a description of the condition of the urban forest; number, location and type of trees planted (particularly % of native trees to total planted); number of applications received and permits issued; summary of decisions of the Tree Commission; progress in meeting the tree canopy goals established by Council to address differences and inequities in tree coverage across the City; status of education and outreach programs including participatory tree planting processes; and total of funds received from fines
- Required the creation of a new species list of recommended trees for planting on private and public property with a focus on native and climate adaptive species. This list is to be reviewed and modified with input from urban forest experts from State and County government, Universities, other organizations, and the community

If you would like to receive a copy of the revised ordinance or have any questions about the revised requirements, please send an email to [urbanforestmanager@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:urbanforestmanager@takomaparkmd.gov).

*The October Newsletter will review the Resolution on Principles and Overarching Goals for the Tree Canopy and Urban Forest Policies that the Council passed on July 22, 2020.*

## Reporting Problems

- If your tree is posing a threat to electrical lines or your house connection, contact PEPCO to get the issue addressed: <https://bit.ly/3lQNe6j>.
- If you want to report an unsafe tree condition on City property, contact the City's Urban Forest Manager at [urbanforestmanager@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:urbanforestmanager@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7612.
- After hours, contact the Takoma Park Police Department at 301-270-1100.
- To report tree issues on State roads such as Carroll, Ethan Allen, New Hampshire Philadelphia Ave, Piney Branch Rd, and University Blvd, contact the State Highway Administration at 410-582-5650 (District 3).

# Important Election Information

- **Mark your ballot.** The City of Takoma Park uses ranked choice voting. When there are multiple candidates, voters may rank candidates in order of choice (1, 2, 3). Follow the instructions on your ballot.
- **Prepare to return your ballot.** When your ballot is complete, fold it and seal it in the ballot envelope. There is an oath printed on the ballot envelope. Sign the oath. After you sign the oath and seal the ballot envelope, insert the ballot envelope into the return envelope. Seal the return envelope.
- **Return your ballot.** Return the ballot by mail or by placing it in a secure drop box in Takoma Park. To be counted, ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day. If a ballot is returned by mail, it must be postmarked on or before Election Day.
- **Ballot drop boxes.** Beginning October 9, completed and sealed ballots may be delivered to a secure ballot drop box at 7500 Maple Avenue (in the Police Department lobby) or at the Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Avenue). *There will also be a presidential election ballot drop box at 7500 Maple Avenue.*
- **Absentee ballots.** Voters who will be out of town in October should complete an absentee ballot application to provide an address where the ballot should be sent.
- **In-Person voting.** There will be in-person voting for the City election only at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, on election day. This option will be available for residents who did not receive a ballot, who are not yet registered to vote, or for voters who need special assistance. Hours will be 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. with access from the back parking lot for drive-through and walk-through voting.
- **Information about candidates.** Candidates will be nominated at the Nominating Caucus on Tuesday, September 15. The October issue of the Takoma Park Newsletter will include names, photos, and 500-word statements from all candidates. Watch for information about candidate forums and events to educate yourself about your choices.



## Prepare for the City of Takoma Park Election (and for the Presidential Election)

Most voter registration is handled by the Maryland State Board of Elections. The most important action you can take to prepare for these two elections is to confirm that you are registered at your current address in Takoma Park. If nothing has changed, and you have voted before at your address, you should be fine. If you have any doubt, or if you have moved in the past few years, confirm or update your registration right away.

Information on how to check your registration is available on the City website or by contacting the City Clerk's Office. If you are not registered, register now. Don't wait!

If you are 16 years old and a U.S. citizen, you may register with the Maryland State Board of Elections. Even though you will not yet be able to vote in the presidential election, you will be able to vote in the City election.

Residents who are not U.S. citizens, or who do not wish to register with the State of Maryland, may still register with the City of Takoma Park to vote only in City elections for mayor and city council.

**For the presidential election,** voters must request a mail-in ballot. Request a ballot online at the Maryland State Board of Elections website, or by returning the application you received in the mail.

**For the City of Takoma Park election for mayor and city council,** registered voters will receive a ballot in the mail. There is no need to request a ballot. However, if you will be out of town between October 9 and November 3, request that an absentee ballot be sent to you at your out of town address.

# Información importante sobre las elecciones

- **Marque su Boleta.** La Ciudad de Takoma Park utiliza el sistema de segunda vuelta de elecciones inmediato. Cuando hay varios candidatos, los votantes pueden clasificar a los candidatos en orden de preferencia (1, 2, 3). Siga las instrucciones de su boleta.
- **Prepárese para Devolver su Boleta.** Cuando su boleta esté completa, dóblela y selléla en el sobre con el juramento impreso. Firma el juramento. Después de firmar el juramento y sellar el sobre, inserte el sobre en el sobre de retorno. Selle el sobre de retorno (gasto de envío es prepago para su conveniencia).
- **Devuelva su Boleta.** Devuelva la boleta por correo o colocándola en un buzón seguro en Takoma Park. Para ser contado, boletas deben ser recibidas antes de las 8 p.m. el día de las elecciones. Si envía la boleta por correo, debe estar marcado con matasellos en o antes del día de las elecciones.
- **Cajas de Entrega de Boletas.** A partir del 9 de Octubre, las boletas completadas y selladas pueden ser entregadas a en una caja segura de entrega de boletas en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park (7500 Maple Avenue - en el primer piso) o en el Centro Recreativo de Takoma Park (7315 New Hampshire Avenue). También habrá caja de entrega de boletas para la elección presidencial en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park.
- **Votos Ausentes.** Los votantes que estarán fuera de la ciudad en Octubre deben completar una solicitud de votación en ausencia para proporcionar una dirección donde se debe enviar la boleta.
- **Votación en Persona.** Habrá votación en persona para las elecciones de la ciudad sólo en el Centro Comunitario Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, el día de las elecciones. Esta opción estará disponible para los residentes que no recibieron una boleta, que aún no están registrados para votar, o para los votantes que necesitan asistencia especial. El horario será de 7 a.m. a 8 p.m. con acceso desde el estacionamiento trasero para servicios en su vehículo para su seguridad o en persona si llega a pie.
- **Información sobre Candidatos.** Los candidatos serán nominados en la Reunión de Nominaciones el Martes, 15 de Septiembre. La edición de Octubre del boletín de Takoma Park incluirá nombres, fotos y declaraciones de 500 palabras de todos los candidatos. Esté atento a los foros y eventos de los candidatos para educarse sobre sus opciones.



## Prepárese para las Elecciones de la Ciudad de Takoma Park (y para las Elecciones Presidenciales)

La mayoría del registro de votantes es manejado por la Junta Electoral del Estado de Maryland. La acción más importante que puede tomar para prepararse para estas dos elecciones es confirmar que está registrado en su dirección actual en Takoma Park. Si nada ha cambiado, y usted ha votado antes en su dirección, usted debe estar bien. Si tiene alguna duda, o si se ha mudado en los últimos años, confirme o actualice su registro de inmediato.

La información sobre cómo verificar su registro está disponible en el sitio web de la ciudad o poniéndose en contacto con la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal de la Ciudad. Si no está registrado, regístrese ahora. ¡No espere!

Si tiene 16 años y es ciudadano estadounidense, puede registrarse con la Junta Electoral del Estado de Maryland, aunque aún no podrá votar en las elecciones presidenciales. Usted será capaz de votar en las elecciones de la ciudad.

Los residentes que no son ciudadanos estadounidenses, o que no desean registrarse en el estado de Maryland, todavía pueden registrarse en la ciudad de Takoma Park para votar sólo en las elecciones de la ciudad para alcalde y concejo de la ciudad.

**Para las elecciones presidenciales,** los votantes deben solicitar una boleta por correo. Solicite una boleta en línea en el sitio web de la Junta Electoral del Estado de Maryland, o devolviendo la solicitud que recibió por correo.

**Para la elección de la ciudad de Takoma Park para alcalde y concejo,** los votantes registrados recibirán una boleta por correo. No es necesario solicitar una boleta. Sin embargo, si va a salir de la ciudad entre el 9 de Octubre y el 3 de Noviembre, solicite que se le envíe una boleta de ausencia en su dirección fuera de la ciudad.



# RECREATION

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

## NEW! IN-PERSON CLASSES

### GUIDELINES

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

1. Classes will take place outdoors and will be weather dependent.
2. Registration is required for all in-person classes.
3. Maximum of 8 participants, remaining at least 6 feet apart at all times (including during water breaks and explanation of drills, exercises, etc.)
4. 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.
5. City of Takoma Park facilities remain closed to the public. Please keep in mind, there are no restroom facilities or water fountains available outdoors.
6. No congregating before or after the program in areas such as parking lots, fields, playgrounds etc.
7. No physical contact (high fives, huddles, etc.) with other participants.
8. Participants shall bring the following items with them to programs:
  - a. Mask
  - b. Water
  - c. Hand Sanitizer
9. Participants shall also consider bringing the following items with them to programs:
  - a. Sunscreen
  - b. Hat & Sunglasses
  - c. Bug spray
  - d. Any equipment necessary for the class

### YOUTH & TEEN

#### Mindfulness

Mindfulness is paying attention in the present moment with kindness. Practicing it can help you be calmer and happier, gain mental focus for sports or performing and learn to tame strong emotions. You will learn mindful listening, breathing, gratitude, and movement practices. Instructor: Jennifer Langer-Smith  
Ed Wilhelm Field  
5 Week Session  
September 10-October 8  
Thursdays  
5-10 years: 4-4:30 p.m.  
Grades 6-12: 5-5:30 p.m.  
Free

#### ART

##### Art In The Park

Have fun drawing with black and white and colored drawing materials outside in two different parks (Ed Wilhelm Field & The Plaza at Old Philadelphia Avenue and Maple Avenue). Subjects will include deep space and close up landscape elements, botanical drawings and floral studies. Beginning students are welcome. The focus of the class is appropriate for students interested in developing a sketchbook for entry into the Visual Arts Center at Albert Einstein High School. A list of optional drawing material will be sent to registered students. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman  
Ed Wilhelm Field  
11-15 years  
6 Week Session  
September 8-October 13  
Tuesdays, 3:30-5 p.m.  
Free

### FITNESS

#### Commit 2 B Fit

Bring your yoga mat and water bottles and join us at Ed Wilhelm Field Saturday mornings for a fun, energized session to work out and get fit. Limited spaces available. Registration required. Instructor: Alex Casimir  
Ed Wilhelm Field  
Grade 6-12  
6 Week Session  
Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
September 12-October 17  
Free

### SPORTS



### Basketball Skills

This is an in-person class where participants will have the opportunity to brush up on the fundamentals of the game of basketball. Skills only; no contact games. Instructor: Greg Harris  
Community Center Basketball Court  
7500 Maple Ave  
11-17 years  
4 Week Sessions  
Group A: Tues. starting Sept. 22  
Group B: Thurs. starting Sept. 24  
6-7 p.m.  
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 Community Center. Instructor: Vinny Mwano  
Meet at 7500 Maple Avenue  
16 and older  
8 Week Session  
September 8-October 27  
Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m.  
Free

## 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.

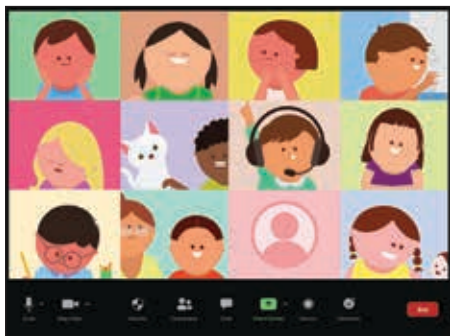
### TOTS

### 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, 5-5:30pm  
Starting September 10  
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 [takomaparkmd.gov](https://takomaparkmd.gov).

### 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.  
Starting September 13  
Free

NEW  
DAY AND  
TIME

### EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

#### 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.  
Starting on September 12  
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.  
Starting September 12  
Free

NEW  
DAY AND  
TIME

### TEENS

### ART



#### Art Elements - Paper Mache Bowl

This virtual class engages in a variety of art and craft techniques, using easy-to-source materials and mediums (inexpensive, common household items, etc.) in the safety and convenience of their own homes. Students will learn the "papier mache" method of sculpting to create a bowl. Registration is required. Instructor: Shannon Tomac  
Grades 6-12  
1 Day Session  
Friday, 4-5 p.m.  
September 11  
Free

#### Art Elements - "Pop Art" Poster

Your eyes are playing tricks on you! In this one-day session, students will use a basic weaving technique with paper strips to create a poster reminiscent of 60s pop art. Registration is required. Instructor: Shannon Tomac  
Grades 6-12  
1 Day Session  
Friday, 4-5 p.m.  
September 25  
Free

### EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT



#### Come Sew with Me

This virtual class will focus on teaching individuals how to create beautiful functional pieces using basic sewing skills and everyday shapes. Each week a fabulous piece of fabric will come to life. Be prepared to create clutches, circle skirts and high waist skirts with pockets. Materials needed: sewing machine, iron, seam ripper, fabric, interfacing, measuring tape, scissors, cutting board (optional) smiles and great energy. **Registration is required.** Instructor: Lakeisa Arrington  
Grade 6-12  
4 Week Session  
Sundays, 3-4 p.m.  
September 13-October 4  
Free

RECREATION ☐ Page 9

**Xbox Gaming Tournament  
will return in November!**



**Don't miss out!**



# RECREATION

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

## RECREATION

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### ADULT

#### FITNESS

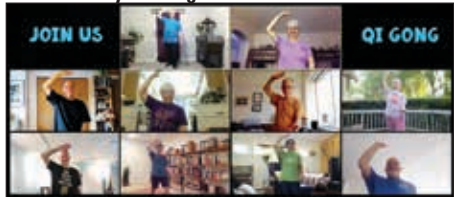
##### Let's Move Caribbean Dance

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.  
Starting September 11  
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.  
Starting September 8  
Free

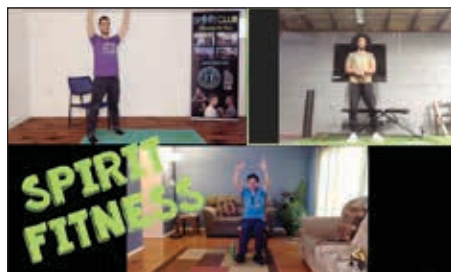
##### Meditation, Mudras & Tea

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 mudras have been used in almost all wisdom traditions throughout the world and notably in yoga. Option to pair your meditation practice with a cup of tea (Instructor will suggest

specific teas 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.  
Starting September 9  
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.  
Starting September 9  
Free



##### 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)  
Starting September 9  
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 the workout that focuses on all major muscle groups. Instructor: KJ Total Fitness  
16 and older  
Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.  
Starting September 12  
Free

##### Yoga (Beginner)

This Zoom class will get you on your feet, stretching and reaching to 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.  
Starting September 9  
Free

#### MULTIMEDIA

##### Digital Marketing

We are all experts of something, and someone is looking to benefit from your expertise. Learn the key digital marketing skills that can help you monetize your expertise. In this course, you will learn how to navigate the digital world to sell a product or your services. This virtual class will cover:  
Ideation to Activation & Market Research  
Which platforms are best for your business  
Effective social media ads and how to set them up  
How to build a website 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 business  
Instructor: Vinny Mwano  
16 and older  
Thursdays, 5–6 p.m.  
Starting September 10  
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 please, 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 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 lb. 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.  
Starting September 8  
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.  
Starting September 9  
Free



##### “Zoomba” Gold

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



## Rolling with the Changes

So far, our youth have had to bear a much tougher year than what they're typically accustomed to. With the curfew, the quarantine, the closing of businesses, parks and schools, the switch to online learning, not seeing or hanging out with friends, they've had to get used to many sudden changes. All this was done to slow the spread of COVID-19 with hopes that things would return to normal before summer.

Unfortunately, the spread of COVID-19 continued to increase, causing nationwide cancellations for summer programming and bringing more changes to an already confusing time for many children. Thankfully, the Takoma Park Recreation Department was able to bring a little bit of sunshine back to summer with Takoma REConnect, a virtual youth summer program.

The program consisted of two, forty-five-minute sessions (Ages 6–9 & Ages 10–12), twice a week, for a total of five weeks. With different weekly themes, such as Chef Cooking week and Dinosaur Week, staff and registered participants played games, created wonderful crafts, got moving with some exercise and even had special guests. It was a great and fun filled experience, allowing youth to safely REConnect with others in the



community. A parent of one of our kids said, “My deepest gratitude to the team who is leading the REConnect program. My child loves to connect with you every call. Thanks for creating such a great and thoughtful program!”

While it seemed things were possibly returning to

normal, with some businesses slowly phasing open, many were hoping to have children return to school. Montgomery County Public Schools decided to continue online learning until January 29, 2021 or until state and local health officials determine conditions in our county allow for students to return safely.

This means that children are still not yet able to return to the TP Community Center after school. So the year of change continues! Changes and adjustments are still consistently being made to properly follow health guidelines. We are happy to announce that starting October 2020, Takoma REConnect will continue as a monthly, virtual afterschool program.

Registration is required for each session. There will be similar elements of the summer Takoma REConnect with tons of new, fun and engaging activities. We'll have special guests, make crafts, and play games, such as bingo and charades. We will use our creativity and imagination to create the best experience possible. Registration has already opened, and space is limited. If you have any questions regarding programs and classes, please contact us at [recreation@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:recreation@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301- 891-7290.



# LIBRARY



## Educational Digital Resources: What the Library Has and How to Use Them

With all in-person Library programs canceled and school back in session, now is a great time to spotlight our many wonderful educational digital resources for all ages. Some resources may require you to enter your library card number, so have it handy. To get to our digital resources, go to [www.takomapark.info/library](http://www.takomapark.info/library). Click on the “online” button at the top of the page. That will take you to a page that organizes the resources into areas: “Language Learning,” “Magazines,” “For Children,” and “College & Career.” There’s also another section of links into our e-book offerings.

For young children, click on “For Children” and then on “Digital Resources for Small Children.” Here, you’ll find another way to link to the Tumblebook Library, as well as an array of puzzles and games. (For this, you’ll first enter your Library card number).

School-age children have even more choices. To explore these, click “For Children,” and then “For Older Children.” Here, you’ll find an array of possibilities, including National Geographic for Kids (both the magazine and books), World Book Online for Kids, Britannica for Kids in Spanish and English, dictionaries in French and Spanish, and more.

If you’re interested in learning a lan-

guage (or brushing up on one), 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 Universalis (Britannica in French) and direct links to our French and Spanish offerings for kids on Tumblebook Library.

Kids and adults doing research should click on our “Research” button. Here, you’ll find more links on various subjects, including “History,” “Health Reference Center,” “Legal Forms,” and, of course, “Magazine, Newspaper and Journal Articles.” Many more links can be found within each of these. For example, if you click on “History,” you’ll find links to information on “American History,” African-American History,” “American Indian History,” and more.

Finally, don’t forget about our “College & Career” resources, which include test preparation for a number of exams, including SAT, ACT and many more. There’s also an extensive number of career resources, found by clicking “Career Guidance Center.”

and can also be found on YouTube at Kati Knows Storytime.

- **Website Update:** The library website has been updated to make it easy for patrons to find the resources you need during this time when our building is closed. There are direct links to information about our “books-to-go” curbside service, our virtual programs, our SummerQuest reading game and more. Check it out at [www.takomapark.info/library](http://www.takomapark.info/library)
- **Comics Jam & Scribbler’s Cabal Return:** After a summer hiatus, two popular online programs will return! Zoom Comics Jam, where Library Associate Dave Burbank reads

## CALENDAR

The library building is closed, so most of our programs are online, and 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 Password, if any) listed with each program. 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.

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.

### Outdoor Yoga Storytime

We also now are offering one in-person program, Outdoor Yoga Storytime, which takes place on Saturdays at 9 a.m. -- beginning Saturday, Sept. 12 -- 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 grown-up. 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, go to [www.takomapark.info/library](http://www.takomapark.info/library), click on the link that says “Zoom and Outdoor Programs,” and scroll down.

## Become a Master at Research

For those seeking up to date information, the library offers free access to Masterfile Premier, which has full text for nearly 1,700 periodicals and is updated daily. To access it, go to [www.takomapark.info/library](http://www.takomapark.info/library) and click the “ONLINE” button at the top of the page. Then:

- Go to MAGAZINE COLLECTION. At this point you will be asked for your Patron ID, which is the bar code on the back of your library card. You will then be offered several choices of databases.
- Pick MasterFILE Premier, and then scroll to the Continue button, and when you click on that you will be on the main page. There are many options for searching, and you can go back at any time to the page where you select MasterFILE Premier to get details about searching and fields. But you don’t need most of this information to complete a

basic search. You can sort the results so that the most recent result shows first. You can search a specific publication by clicking on the Publications button at the top left corner of the main search page and entering the title.

Here are some things to think about as you search. In April in the New York Times, a search for covid-19 yielded a few hits. But if you search coronavirus (one word) the search yields many more hits. Why the difference? Because covid-19 has only been used by the NYT for a short period of time! So think about your terms and your publication.

You also might want to just look in a particular publication to see what’s new. The newest Consumer Reports issue will be loaded. You can open html or PDF versions of full text articles, and print or download the file. Information is power!

## LIBRARY BRIEFS

- **Crafts, Activities and Stories:** Looking for fun craft and other activities to do with your kids? Children’s Librarian Kati Nolfi regularly posts on the library’s Facebook page about crafts and activities that she tries out with her own two young children. A recent post, for example, focused on painting – with balloons, among other things! In addition, Kati regularly records brief storytimes, usually consisting of a book and a song or two. Those are posted on the Library Facebook page

comics and takes drawing requests, will return on Sept. 2 at 4 p.m. The program will then continue each Wednesday. Then, on Friday, Sept. 4 at 4 p.m., Dave will lead our Zoom Scribbler’s Cabal, an informal sketch club where everyone works on their own drawings and, if comfortable, shares them with the group. Scribbler’s Cabal will then continue each Friday afternoon. Both programs have the same Zoom credentials. To participate, go to <https://zoom.us>. Click on “Join a Meeting” and then put in Meeting ID: 734-913-6285. No Meeting Password is required.

- **SummerQuest Finale:** Please join us on Monday, Sept. 21 at 7:30 p.m. as we wrap up another fun SummerQuest season. Even if you didn’t complete SummerQuest, you’re welcome to join us and tell us what books you read that enjoyed and any crafts or cooking activities that you did for the SummerQuest “make or do” challenge. SummerQuest creator Dave Burbank will host, along with Children’s Coordinator Karen MacPherson. To participate, go to <https://zoom.us>. Click on “Join a Meeting,” then put in this Meeting ID: 917-9362-9913 and Meeting Password: 65651.



# Books-To-Go Booming

Our “Books-to-Go” curbside service is popular! In its first six weeks of service, staff members have checked out 2,555 books - including 1,836 children's and young adult books and 667 adult books. Emails and comments at our book pick-up station have been appreciative and gratifying - as more and more residents take advantage of our efforts to provide print materials.

Meanwhile, here's a hint for making the most of “Books-to-Go”: Send us your “check out” emails Mondays and Wednesdays from about 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. It's less busy, and you can pick up your books that evening. You can also request something like “5 board books” without specifying titles. And remember – in addition to books, you can check out magazines, CD audiobooks, and CD music. Everything is checked out for three weeks with automatic renewal.

Here are the basics:

1. **If possible, check your account online before you request books.** To check out books, all overdue books on your library card first must be returned! **Note:** Once you return your books in the book-drop, they are quarantined for four days, so they will still appear on your account for a few days after you've returned them.
2. **We'll be taking book orders by email (strongly preferred) and phone.** Emails can be sent any time, of course. Phone requests can be made Mondays and Wednesdays 10–12 and 4–6, and Saturdays, 10–12. Email for book requests is: [librarytakomapark@gmail.com](mailto:librarytakomapark@gmail.com). To request kids/teen books,



call: 301-580-0085

To request adult books, call:  
240-507-0229

3. **Before requesting books, please check our catalog,** <https://takoma.bywatersolutions.com> to see if we have the book, and if it is available. If it is checked out, you will see -- in red letters — CHECKED OUT.
4. **Patrons are limited to five books per order.** There are also limits on the total number of items you can have checked out at one time.

5. **When you request books, by email or phone, we will need your name plus either your birthday (month and day) or the last 4 digits of your library card number.** We need this information, so we can call up your account, and also to ensure you get the books you order. For an email request, this information should go in the subject line, along with an indication as to whether you are asking for adult books or children's/teen books.
6. **Once we have fetched your books, we'll give you a pick-up window.** Regular pick-up times will be Mondays and Wednesdays, 12–2 and 6–8, and Saturdays, 12–3. **Note:** We will fulfill the requests in the order received, and it may take a few days before we get to yours.
7. **Call when you get to the Library.** The number to call is 301-580-0085. We'll bring out your books and leave them on a table for you to pick up.

## Email Requests

The email for book requests is [librarytakomapark@gmail.com](mailto:librarytakomapark@gmail.com).

- The subject line should include your name (even if it is part of your email address), the type of books you want (A for adult books, J for children's/teen books), and either the last four digits of your library card or the month and day of your birthday.
- In the body of the email, list the books you are requesting. It will help us to help you if you first search our online catalog, <https://takoma.bywatersolutions.com>, and provide us with the title, and call number (not the barcode). Also, please make sure it is available.
- We will reply when we have fulfilled your request, and let you know when you may to pick up your books. Incomplete information will delay the process.

## Phone Requests

To request kids/teen books, call 301-580-0085.

To request adult books, call 240-507-0229.

- We will ask you for your name and the last four digits of your Library card number or the month and day of your birthday.
- When you give us the titles of the books you want, please give us the author and call number as well (if you are using the catalog).

## Call Numbers

If it is a fiction work, please use what we have in the catalog. For instance, the call number for *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger is FIC SALINGER. For a non-fiction book, such as *Birds of Eastern North America* by Paul Sterry, the call number is 598.097 STERRY.

## NEW BOOKS

■ From page 1

dren's Corner, <https://bit.ly/3gOami2>.

And don't forget! We love helping to match young patrons with books! Just send us an email giving us an idea of your child's interests and reading level, and we'll do our best to find some great books.

For example, a patron recently emailed asking for book suggestions for her seven-year-old granddaughter, who's interested in how things work. We suggested *The Way Things Work Now* by David Macaulay, which available as a print copy in our library and also digitally via Hoopla, one of our online resources. In addition, Children's Librarian Kati Nolfi recently posted on Facebook about doing some science experiments with her daughter as they read the *Zoey and Sassafras* series.

To ask for book recommendations, email any of the kids/teen team at the Library:

- Children's & Teen Services Coordinator  
Karen MacPherson ([karenm@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:karenm@takomaparkmd.gov))
- Children's Librarian Kati Nolfi ([kathrynn@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:kathrynn@takomaparkmd.gov))
- Library Associate/Graphic Novel Guru Dave Burbank ([davidb@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:davidb@takomaparkmd.gov))



Here's a book review by Melody, a local student who writes reviews for the library to earn Student Service Learning (SSL) hour credits. Other students who might be interested in reviewing for the library to earn SSL hours should contact Children's Librarian Kati Nolfi at [kathrynn@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:kathrynn@takomaparkmd.gov).

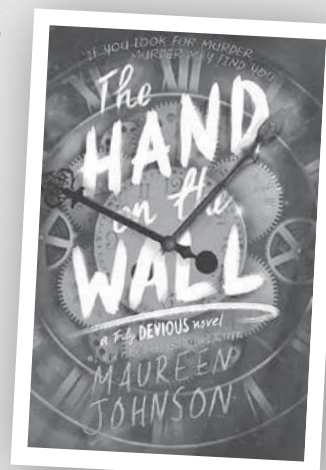
Stevie, a student wannabe detective, has solved the cold Ellingham Case – or at least, she thinks so; she doesn't have much concrete proof. And with three deaths linked in some way to Ellingham Academy, and a blizzard headed on the way, the school is evacuated. Stevie chooses to stay behind in the hopes of getting some proof.

This book was a fantastic conclusion to the Truly Devious series. I loved how it wrapped everything up so neatly, even the tiny and plot-irrelevant subplots that ran through the first two novels. This book also had some particularly emotional scenes, undertones and plot twists, something that really got me involved in the story.

Just like all the other books in this trilogy, *The Hand on the Wall* has some very realistic dialogue. However, I feel that the romantic relationships in this book change a little too quickly to be realistic. Couples flip dynamics over the course of the book, going from shunning to smooching. While I suppose being stuck on a mountain with a murderer on the loose tends to progress relationships, it still feels a bit superficial, especially when considering their relationships in previous books as well.

Overall, I'd say this book is meant for young adults – there are mentions of sex and death (it is a murder mystery). To end this review on a humorous note that Truly Devious readers will understand, I offer you this quote: “The universe paid me in moose.”

—Melody





SAVE THE DATE!

12TH ANNUAL PLAY DAY

A Day of Virtual Community Play!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2020

10AM - 2PM for Scheduled Zoom Programming

All Day Social Media Event!

#12thAnnualPlayDay #LetsPlayAmerica

@lets.play.america

@america\_plays

Let's Play America

For More Information and to Sign Up for Activities Please Visit:

www.letsplayamerica.org

Contact us: info@letsplayamerica.org | www.letsplayamerica.org

Play Day Activities

- 10-10:15
- Follow the Leader with Pat, The Play Lady  
(Have a hat, scarf, book, marker and paper handy)
- 10:25-10:55
- Yoga with Eva
- 11-11:30
- Simon Says with Congressman Raskin
- 11:40-12:10
- Sporcle with Jeremy
- 12:20-12:50
- Backyard Nature Play with Peter
- 1-1:20
- Inprov Games with Christine
- 1:30-2
- Clowning Activities with Mike
- Children and adults can sign-up for these activities on Let's Play America's website [www.letsplayamerica.org](http://www.letsplayamerica.org). Prior to Play Day follow Let's Play America on social media; see the ad for more information.

WORD SUDOKU



TAKOMA PARK SUDOKU WORDS

The rules of the game are the same as numbers sudoku. Each of the nine blocks has to contain all the words listed within its squares. Each word can only appear once in a row, column or box.

The words or names that are used in the puzzle:

Love

Kindness

Equality

Respect

Hope

Diversity

Inclusion

Peace

TKPK

			Love	Inclusion			Kindness	
	Diversity				Kindness	Peace	Inclusion	
Kindness			Respect	Peace		Love		
	Inclusion	Respect			Equality	Diversity		
Equality	Kindness					Inclusion		Hope
	Hope		Inclusion		Peace		Respect	
		Hope	Equality			TKPK		Inclusion
		Kindness		Love		Hope		Respect
Inclusion		Equality	TKPK			Kindness		



## Wear Your Mask Songs for Kids

Children's Librarian Kati Nolfi has been having fun creating songs about the importance of wearing masks by putting new words to old favorite tunes. Here are two (others can be found on the library's Facebook page or on Kati's YouTube channel, Kati Knows Storytime):

(To the tune of "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes")  
Mask, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes (2x)  
Don't forget to cover your nose (stretch out the word "cover")  
Mask, shoulders, knees and toes.

(To the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It")  
Put a mask on your face, on your face (2x)  
When you go outside, here's where your nose should hide.  
Put a mask on your face, on your face.



## Cleaning Cloth masks

### Machine washing

- You can include your mask with your regular laundry.
- Use regular laundry detergent and the warmest appropriate water setting for the cloth used to make the mask.

### Washing by hand

Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:

- 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) household bleach per gallon of room temperature water or
- 4 teaspoons household bleach per quart of room temperature water
- Soak the mask in the bleach solution for 5 minutes.
- Rinse thoroughly with cool or room temperature water.

**Important Note:** Check the label to see if your bleach is intended for disinfection. Some bleach products, such as those designed for safe use on colored clothing, may not be suitable for disinfection. Ensure the bleach product is not past its expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser.

### Using Dryer

Use the highest heat setting and leave in the dryer until completely dry.

### Air Drying

Lay flat and allow to completely dry. If possible, place the mask in direct sunlight.

For more information on cloth masks, visit the CDC site:  
[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html)

—Ron Hardy, Emergency Preparedness Manager/Police Planning, City of Takoma Park



### Mask Donations

Are you sewing masks and willing to make some for neighbors in need? Please drop masks off in the collection box in the lobby of the Police Station. Are you or your organization in need of masks? Please contact [housing@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:housing@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7119.

## Resources Available During the Coronavirus

In response to the great need in our community, the Department of Housing and Community Development has put together a list of resources available to residents. Our staff is available to assist you. Se Habla Español. You can email us at [housing@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:housing@takomaparkmd.gov) or call 301-891-7119 for additional help.

### Takoma Park Residents in Need of a Mask

- Email: [housing@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:housing@takomaparkmd.gov)
- Call: 301-891-7119

### Eviction Prevention

- Montgomery County Office to Prevent Homelessness  
Call: 240-777-0311
- Ministries United Silver Spring Takoma Park (MUSST)  
Email: [musst@verizon.net](mailto:musst@verizon.net)
- Legal Assistance – Maryland Legal Aid, Montgomery County Office  
Call: 240-314-0373

### Assistance with Utility Disconnections

- Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP)  
Home heating, electric utility bills (low-income homeowners, renters, and roomers in Maryland)  
Apply:  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ohcp](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ohcp)  
Email application to:

[ohcp@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:ohcp@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
Call: 240-777-4450

### Foreclosure Assistance

Free Foreclosure Brief Legal Advice:

- Civil Justice Inc. Helpline  
Call: 443-808-0076  
(no income restrictions)  
Mondays, 1:30 – 6 p.m.  
Wednesday, 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Maryland Legal Aid Foreclosure Assistance Project  
Call: 888-213-3320
- Montgomery County Eviction Prevention  
Call: 240-777-3075

### Wills and Powers of Attorney

- Pro Bono Program of the Montgomery County Bar Foundation Inc.
- Requirements: Must meet income guidelines for services and reside in Montgomery County
- Takoma East Silver Spring Community Action Center
- Client Line: 301-424-7651

### Maryland Legal Aid

- For wills, advance medical directives, power of attorney, and living wills
- Requirements: 1. Must meet income guidelines for services 2. Must be a U.S. Citizen or permanent resident
- Note: Clients over 60 years of age living in Maryland do not have to meet

any income guidelines for services.  
• Client Line: 240-314-0373

### Standby Guardianship

- Standby Guardianship Project Inc.
- Free assistance to parent(s) in completing the standby guardianship form and information about family safety planning
- Takoma East Silver Spring Community Action Center
- Contact Maureen Laurnas (240-773-8260) or Cam Crockett (240-535-5966)

### Return of Security Deposit

- Takoma Park Tenancy Only Department of Housing and Community Development  
Email: [housing@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:housing@takomaparkmd.gov)  
Call: 301-891-7119
- Montgomery County  
Call: 240-777-0311

### Homeowners at Risk of Tax Sale

Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland  
443-703-3052

### Garnishment of Stimulus Check

Civil Justice Inc.  
Call: 410-706-0174  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

### Help in Receiving Stimulus Check

Catholic University of America Legal Clinic  
Email: [fsn@cc-dc.org](mailto:fsn@cc-dc.org)

### Unemployment Insurance Claim Issues

APALRC  
Call: 202-393-3572

### IRS Disputes and Payment Agreement

Catholic University of America  
Community Legal Services  
Call: 202-319-6788

### Immigration Issues, Travel Restrictions, Public Charge Rule Questions

APALRC  
Call: 202-393-3572

### Medical Insurance for the Uninsured

Maryland Health Connection  
Call: 855-642-8572 or 270-777-1815

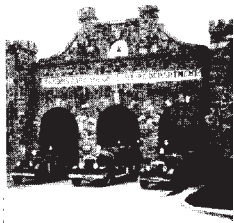
### Bankruptcy Assistance (Chapter 7 only)

Catholic University of America  
Community Legal Services  
Call: 202-319-6788

### Jobs

- Free One-on-One Virtual Job Coaching  
Worksource Montgomery  
First Tuesday of the Month;  
By appointment only.  
Email: [housing@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:housing@takomaparkmd.gov)  
Call: 301-891-7119





## THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

### Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of August 31, 2020 31 people have died in fires compared to 41 in 2019.

### Hot vehicle deaths

As of September 3, 2020, 21 children have died in hot vehicles. One is too many! Again, here are a few

ideas that might help you not to forget to check the back seat. Put your cell phone, wallet, purse or one of your shoes. Do whatever it takes to help you remember to check the back seat. Don't forget to lock your vehicle.

### Fire safety message

If a fire occurs in your home, Get Out, Stay Out and Call for Help. Never go back inside for anything or anyone.

### COVID safety message



## 2020 Census Can We Count You In?

### Did you know...

**For every person not counted, the State of MD will lose \$18,200 over the next ten years?**



## The Census deadline has been moved up to September 30. Can we count you in?

74.1% of households in Takoma Park have responded to the Census so far. Let's keep it going! Please make sure neighbors and family members have responded to their households. Census takers are beginning to contact the Montgomery County households that have not responded. We are encouraging all residents to self-respond online or by phone (several languages available) or by mail. Visit [2020Census.gov](https://2020Census.gov) for more information. Your responses are confidential.



## Editor's note

### 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:

ከታች ያለውን ደህን አዲስ የዚህ መጽሔት አርከብ ራስዎ ማግኘት በሌሎች ቋንቋዎች በመስመር ላይ ማንበብ ይቻላል ትርጉሙን በመጠቀም በታችኛው አገልግሎት ያለውን ባህሪ የገጽ ድርጅት ጣቢያ ጠቅ ከደረጃ በኋላ አጽሮው አገልግሎት ይመልከቱ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥንግ ላይ ታስባለች የአሰሪ አዋጁን ይምረጡና ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልጭላለች ሳጥን።

## Storm Season 2020 + COVID-19 = Challenging Combination

By Claudine Schweber, co-chair  
Emergency Preparedness Committee, Takoma Park



Once again, it's Fall Storm Season. Last month, we've had thunderstorms and even a power outage on August 12 in part of Takoma Park. The preparedness information from the past has a special challenge this year, COVID-19. This year add COVID-19 protections to your storm preparedness plan and supplies. Ready or Not?

### COVID-19 + storm readiness checklist:

- COVID-19: Supplies: hand sanitizer, soap, paper towels/ tissues, disinfecting wipes and/or spray, extra masks for each person (Note: Sanitizer with 60% alcohol/ or ethyl alcohol and not methanol)  
ready\_\_\_\_ not\_\_\_\_
- COVID: If you must evacuate, stay 6 feet away from others; take disaster kit; wash hands, use sanitizer, wear mask  
ready\_\_\_\_ not\_\_\_\_
- First aid kit, complete and accessible  
ready\_\_\_\_ not\_\_\_\_
- Disaster kit, ready (nonperishable/canned food and can opener; water; paper towels/tissues, blankets; warm clothing and shoes; kids' activities)  
ready\_\_\_\_ not\_\_\_\_
- Emergency Contacts list (one local person and one out of area)  
ready\_\_\_\_ not\_\_\_\_
- Communication Plan  
ready\_\_\_\_ not\_\_\_\_
- Electronic record of health records (share link with contact persons)  
ready\_\_\_\_ not\_\_\_\_
- Important documents, copies: medical records, insurance, driver's license, social security, photos (paper or USB stick)  
ready\_\_\_\_ not\_\_\_\_
- Medication list easily accessible; doctor contact info; extra medication:  
ready\_\_\_\_ not\_\_\_\_
- Power outage: working flashlights and extra batteries, nearby; Do not use lighted candles  
ready\_\_\_\_ not\_\_\_\_
- Power Outage: Fully charged Cell phone charger; radio, battery-operated or hand-cranked  
ready\_\_\_\_ not\_\_\_\_
- Pets: Food, water, medication, and an ID tag; list of shelters that allow pets  
ready\_\_\_\_ not\_\_\_\_
- Evacuation
  - Cash and credit card available  
ready\_\_\_\_ not\_\_\_\_
  - Plan ahead with family and neighbors  
ready\_\_\_\_ not\_\_\_\_
  - Sign up for Takoma Park alerts:  
ready\_\_\_\_ not\_\_\_\_
  - Check TP COVID-19 info regularly  
ready\_\_\_\_ not\_\_\_\_
- Make sure that persons with disabilities are informed of all of the above items  
ready\_\_\_\_ not\_\_\_\_
- Make that non-English speakers are informed of all the above items  
ready\_\_\_\_ not\_\_\_\_

As you go through this list, are you comfortable that you are ready for storms during COVID-19? If not, the time to take care is now. Remember, being prepared prevents being scared!

### Sign up for Takoma Alerts:

[takomaparkmd.gov/services/takoma-park-alert](https://takomaparkmd.gov/services/takoma-park-alert)

### For Takoma Park COVID-19 Resources:

[takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/information-and-resources-covid-19](https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/information-and-resources-covid-19)

It's 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."





# City of Takoma Park

## Connecting Our Community



## In Many Ways!

**TakomaParkMD.gov**



# September 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 October issue is Sept. 11, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning Sept. 25. To submit virtual calendar items, email [tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov).

## Event Cancellations

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

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, September 16, 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, September 23, 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, September 30, 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).

# 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.

# SUPPORT THE ARTS

## ARTS AND LITERATURE

### 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. Watch their website for specially-themed weeks and for instructions on how to participate. You can also watch most days on Facebook Live. Visit their website for instructions on how to join online. Free, but donations to the “Antidote Fund” are encouraged and support the artists. Info: [info@revelsdc.org](mailto:info@revelsdc.org); [revelsdc.org/2020/daily-song](http://revelsdc.org/2020/daily-song)

### Carpe Diem Arts-Washington Revels Community Sing

Online/Virtual  
Monday, Sept. 21, 6:30 p.m.  
Carpe Diem Arts and Washington Revels gather to share songs of the changing seasons, holidays, social movements and historic figures, and cultures from around the world. Join them in September to sing Harvest Songs marking the Fall Equinox, and to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, African Heritage Month, and Labor Day. Visit their website for instructions on how to participate online and for updates on a possible physical location. The event is free, but donations are encouraged. Visit [revelsdc.org/shows-events/community-sings](http://revelsdc.org/shows-events/community-sings)

# COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

## 2020 Takoma Park Folk Festival: Voice Heard

Sundays, September 13 and 20, 7–10 p.m.  
Online  
The Takoma Park Folk Festival will be virtual this year with six hours of programming shown online. The festival will be a mix of six new performances taped at Takoma Park’s own Tonal Park studio this summer complemented by archival festival footage celebrating more than 40 years of this community event. Both nights will be hosted by a live emcee and provide a format for audience participation. The six performers are Baltimore-based soul trio Big Little Band; North American traditional music from Lisa Null; Americana from Naked Blue; and remarkable guitarist Yasmin Williams. For people who are inclined to dance in their living rooms, the gypsy jazz of Orchester Prazevica and a blend of rock, funk, hip hop, R&B, folk, go-go, and country from Most Savage Gentlemen will provide more than enough tempo. For performance, crafts and community tables information, follow the Takoma Park Folk Festival on social media or visit [TPFF.org](http://TPFF.org).

## Shop Local Sidewalk Sale

Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 19 – 20  
Various locations  
Shop the deals at Takoma Park’s locally-owned, independent shops while maintaining social distancing. Find big sales on home goods, handicrafts, bikes, pet supplies, games, clothing, hardware and more. Get started on holiday shopping. And remember to wear your mask.

## 12th Annual (Virtual) Play Day

Saturday, Sept. 26, 10 a.m. — 2 p.m.  
Online  
Enjoy a day of blended virtual and in-person community play. Follow Let’s Play America on social media and use the following hashtags to share your participation in at-home activities on the 26th: #12thAnnualPlayDay and #LetsPlayAmerica. If you would like to contribute ideas or lead activities remotely for the 12th Annual Play Day, contact Let’s Play America by emailing [info@letsplayamerica.org](mailto:info@letsplayamerica.org).

# VILLAGE OF TAKOMA PARK EVENTS

## Village Rides — Drivers Needed: Virtual Orientation Session for Volunteers

Monday, Sept. 21, 7 – 8:15 p.m.  
Do you think you might be interested in driving Takoma Park seniors once a month or more? Join this information session to learn about this volunteer opportunity and get answers to all of your questions. (Participating in this session does not require a commitment to volunteer.) Please register by going to our website, [villageoftakomapark.com](http://villageoftakomapark.com), to receive a link to the Zoom session. If you have questions, call 301-646-2109.

## \*Virtual Event: Aging Well Taking Charge of Our Health

Thursday, Sept. 24, noon – 1:30 p.m.  
How can we take charge of our own health and address the chronic diseases of aging? Join this session to learn about how a new paradigm, Functional Medicine, addresses the root causes of disease with nutrition and lifestyle. Our presenter will be Glenda Kapsalis, a Functional Medicine Certified Health Coach.

## \*Virtual Event: The Electoral College; Evolution of an Odd Duck

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 1:30 – 2:30 pm  
The Electoral College is complicated. Join this session to learn about what it is, why it was established, how it has evolved, its advantages and disadvantages, and possible changes under consideration. Our presenter, Ralph Watkins, is a retired attorney who has been an active member of the League of Women Voters of Maryland for over 20 years.

\*This event is open to all, but registration is required. Go to [villageoftakomapark.com](http://villageoftakomapark.com) for more information and to register and receive a link to the session. For those without internet access, participation is available by phone. Call 301-646-2109 to register and receive instructions on how to phone in.