Editor’s Note: This month we’re introducing a new series of articles that reflect on death and grief. We’ll run them under the thematics of death and grief, to offer our readers in the community a forum for different thought leaders to offer their perspectives on grief and loss. If you are a thought leader in the community experiencing the loss of friends and loved ones, I thought carefully about how best to address such profound loss in the newsletter. After careful consultation with staff, I decided the best approach would be to provide a forum for different thought leaders to offer their perspectives on grief and loss. We’ll run them under the thematics of death and grief.

What does the County decision mean for Takoma Park?

The biggest changes starting will be:
- Restaurants will be able to continue take out service and begin outdoor seating following social distance protocols.
- Retail stores will be allowed to have curbside pickup.
- Hair salons and barbershops are allowed to reopen following specific guidelines.

There will be no significant change in the City of Takoma Park governmental operations due to Montgomery County’s Phase 1 Reopening. City of Takoma Park governmental buildings will not be open to the public for many weeks, and most of our services will continue to be handled remotely. Our Police Department is always open for emergency services, and our Police and Public Works staff continue to work serving the community.

What have we been doing in this time before Phase 1 Reopening?

Our City staff has been putting in long, difficult hours working with families and small businesses in need. It is hard to adequately describe the heart-wrenching situations many of our residents face. We have families whose primary breadwinner is sick, and suddenly the family is without income and health insurance. Applying for unemployment is complicated by limited fluency in English or lack of documentation. We have been able to help a number of these families get testing, pay rent, obtain food and face masks and make key connections to ongoing services. We will continue to provide this assistance.

Our small businesses have also been pressed to the limit. When the federal stimulus program was issued to help small businesses, the program went through banks. Banks focused on the businesses they worked with most closely, which were often larger businesses. Most of our businesses in Takoma Park were not helped. However, the City of Takoma Park had already acted. Even before the federal government acted, we had started our Mini-Grant program with funds we were able to pull together. So far, we have helped businesses in Takoma Park.

LUDLOW □ Page 7

Message to the Community on the Death of George Floyd

From Chief Tony DeVaul

As are all in our community, I am deeply disturbed by the actions of Minneapolis Police officers in the murder of George Floyd. The actions taken by the involved officers were incredibly disturbing and go against the basic law enforcement principle of the preservation of life. The lack of compassion, abuse of power, and use of excessive force does not just tarnish our profession, they tear at the very fabric of race relations in our country. Every human being must be treated with dignity and respect. George Floyd was afforded neither.

I am glad to see the outrage from law enforcement leaders across the country. We can no longer sit back and allow these incidents to happen. Real change must happen. The changes start with our hiring and training. We must hire people who want to be in law enforcement for the right reasons; those who truly want to help people and understand the importance of developing trust and positive relationships with our community members. It is not us against them, just us. We must also train our officers to deescalate situations with dialog, not force.

A vital key to developing trust and legitimacy with our communities is removing problem officers from our ranks. It is my understanding that the primary officer involved in the death of George Floyd had nearly 20 previous complaints lodged against him. While I do not know the individual facts of each complaint, the fact that an individual officer had nearly twenty complaints and two
At the City Council meeting on March 18, 2020, FY2020 Budget Amendment No. 3 was adopted by Ordinance 2020-6. Resolution 2020-10 was adopted, extending the City Manager’s employment contract to July 1, 2021. (Councilmember Smith voted against the resolution.)

On April 1, 2020, the Council adopted amendments to the Takoma Park Election Code by Ordinance 2020-7. Substantive amendments include the addition of a requirement that candidates file campaign expenditure reports, establishment of a reporting requirement for disposition of surplus campaign funds, addition of certain limits on campaign contributions, and establishment of a campaign registration process that opens in June of an election year. Resolution 2020-11 was also adopted. The resolution authorizes changes to the FY20 Community Grants Program to one which funds the provision of operational support for grantees. The change was necessitated by the inability of grantees to facilitate planned events and activities as a result of the health emergency.

At its April 15, 2020 meeting, the City Council adopted Ordinance 2020-8, authorizing a contract with RR/MM Lukmire Architects for professional services related to continued engineering design, permit application preparation, construction document preparation, and construction administration for a replacement Library. The contract amount is $499,635. Resolution 2020-12 was adopted, suspending quasi-judicial proceedings before the City’s boards, commissions, and committees until 30 days after Maryland’s COVID-19 state of emergency has been terminated.

VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

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

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

Apply Now for the Takoma Park Youth Council: Deadline June 30

- Are you a rising 7th - 12th grade student interested in politics?
- Do you want to be a part of your government?
- Do you want to serve your community?

Take advantage of this incredible opportunity to be a part of your municipal government. Apply by June 30, 2020 to be considered for the Takoma Park Youth Council for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Youth Council was created three years ago as an advisory committee to the City Council, representing the interests of youth in our city government. The Council meets every two weeks to discuss issues pertaining to youth in the city and plan community events providing opportunities for youth to engage with their community. See the Youth Council page for specifics, the Charter, and all meeting agendas and minutes: takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees/takoma-park-youth-council.

Important Takoma Park Election Dates

The next City of Takoma Park election for Mayor and City Council will take place on Tuesday, November 3. This is the same date at the Presidential Election. Voters will cast ballots at their usual assigned voting location but will check in and vote first at the Presidential Election, and then check in and vote in the Takoma Park Municipal Election.

Tuesday, September 15: Nominating Caucus
Thursday, October 22 through Thursday, October 28: Early Voting
Tuesday, November 3: Election Day
Preparing for the November 3, 2020 City Election

On November 3, Takoma Park residents age 16 and over will vote for mayor and council. For city residents also eligible to vote in the presidential election, that vote will be separate, but voting will take place at the same location.

The Takoma Park Board of Elections wants to be sure that voting is convenient for city residents. Contingency planning is being done to allow for vote by mail if the State of Maryland holds a vote by mail election in November due to COVID-19 (as was done for the June primary election). Watch for updates on the City website and in future newsletters.

Thinking About Running for Office in 2020?

How to Place a Name on the Ballot

In Takoma Park, a resident who wishes to have their name placed on the ballot for the office of mayor or city councilmember must be nominated at the nominating caucus. This year, the caucus will take place on Tuesday, September 15, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium or virtually remotely (depending on the situation with COVID-19).

Candidates for Mayor: Nomination of candidates for mayor shall be made on motion by any qualified voter of the city, and if such nomination is seconded by a qualified voter of the city, the person so nominated shall be considered a candidate. The candidate must be at least 18 years of age on the day of the election, must have resided in the city for at least six months immediately preceding their election, and must be a qualified voter of the City. The mayor must maintain principal residence in the city during the term of office. Term: 2 years. Salary: $14,771 annually (paid biweekly).

Candidates for City Council: Nomination of each candidate for ward councilmember shall be made on motion by any qualified voter of the ward, and if such nomination is seconded by a qualified voter of the ward, the person so nominated shall be considered a candidate. The candidate must be at least 18 years of age on the day of the election, must have resided in the city and ward from which they are elected for at least six months immediately preceding their election, and must be a qualified voter of the city. Councilmembers must maintain their principal residence in the city and in their ward during their term of office. Term: 2 years. Salary: $11,362 annually (paid biweekly).

Campaign Finance and Registration: Potential candidates for office may register with the City Clerk beginning Monday, June 8. Registration is required before any campaign contributions can be accepted or before making any campaign expenditures. New campaign finance requirements take effect this year. See www.takomaparkmd.gov for information or call Jesse Carpenter at 301-891-7267.

Important Election Dates

- Takoma Park Nominating Caucus – Tuesday, September 15
- Early Voting – Thursday, October 22 through Thursday, October 29
  Vote at the Silver Spring Civic Building, 1 Veterans Plaza, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Not applicable in the event of vote by mail.)
- Election Day Voting – Tuesday, November 3
  Vote at your assigned Takoma Park precinct between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. (Will change in the event of vote by mail.)

Fechas Importantes de la Elección Municipal

- Reunión de Nominaciones de Takoma Park – Martes, 15 de Septiembre
- Votación Anticipada: Jueves, 22 de Octubre a Jueves, 29 de Octubre
  Vote en el Edificio Cívico de Silver Spring, 1 Veterans Plaza, de 8 a.m. a 8 p.m. (No aplicable en caso de votación por correo.)
- Votación el Día de la Elección Municipal: Martes, 3 de Noviembre
  Vote en el centro electoral asignado en su distrito en Takoma Park entre las 7 a.m. y las 8 p.m. (Cambiará en caso de votación por correo.)

Preparación para la Elección Municipal el 3 de Noviembre del 2020

El 3 de Noviembre, los residentes de Takoma Park mayores de 16 años votarán por el alcalde y el concejo municipal. Para los residentes de la ciudad también elegibles para votar en las elecciones presidenciales, ese voto será separado, pero la votación se llevará a cabo en el mismo lugar.

La Junta Electoral de Takoma Park quiere asegurarse de que la votación sea conveniente para los residentes de la ciudad. Se está haciendo una planificación de contingencia para permitir el voto por correo si el Estado de Maryland decide que la elección sea una votación por correo en Noviembre debido a COVID-19 (como se hizo para las elecciones primarias de Junio). Esté atento a las actualizaciones en el sitio web de la ciudad y en futuros boletines.

¿Está Pensando en Postularse para un Cargo en 2020?

Cómo Colocar un Nombre en la Boleta Electoral

En Takoma Park, un residente que desee que su nombre aparezca en la boleta electoral para el cargo de alcalde o miembro del concejo municipal debe ser nombrado en la reunión de nominaciones. Este año, la reunión de nominaciones se llevará a cabo el Martes, 15 de Septiembre a las 7:30 p.m. en el Auditorio del Centro Comunitario o virtualmente / remotamente (dependiendo de la situación de COVID-19).

Candidatos para alcalde: La nominación de candidatos para alcalde serán hechas por nominación por cualquier votante calificado de la ciudad y si dicha nominación es secundada por un votante calificado de la ciudad, la persona nominada será considerada como candidato. El candidato debe tener al menos 18 años de edad el día de la elección. Si dicha nominación es secundada por un votante calificado de la ciudad, la persona nominada será considerada como candidato. El candidato debe tener al menos 18 años de edad el día de la elección, debe haber residido en la ciudad durante al menos seis meses inmediatamente anteriores a su elección y debe ser un votante calificado de la ciudad. El alcalde debe mantener la residencia principal en la ciudad durante el mandato. Plazo: 2 años. Salario: $14,771 anualmente (pagado quincenlamente).

Candidatos para el Concejo Municipal: La nominación del candidato para miembro del concejo de cada distrito se hará por nominación de cualquier votante calificado de tal distrito, y si dicha nominación es secundada por un votante calificado de tal distrito, la persona nominada será considerada como candidato. El candidato debe tener al menos 18 años de edad el día de la elección, debe haber residido en la ciudad (y en el distrito donde fue elegido) durante al menos seis meses inmediatamente anteriores a su elección, y debe ser un votante calificado de la ciudad. Los miembros del concejo deben mantener su residencia principal en la ciudad y en su distrito durante su mandato. Plazo: 2 años. Salario: $11,362 anualmente (pagado quincenalmente).

Financiamiento de Campaña y Registro: Los candidatos potenciales para el cargo de alcalde o miembro del concejo pueden registrarse con la Secretaría Municipal a partir del Lunes, 8 de Junio. Se requiere registro antes de que se acepten contribuciones de campaña o antes de realizar cualquier gasto de campaña. Los nuevos requisitos de financiamiento de campaña entrarán en vigencia este año. Consulte la página web www.takomaparkmd.gov para obtener información o llame a Irma Nalvarie al 301-891-7244.

Important City Department Phone Numbers

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

THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Apryl Motley
Assistant: Sean Gossard
www.takomaparkmd.gov
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The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 12 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, takomaparkmd.gov. Letters to the editor, reports by community groups, calendar items and other submissions will be considered for publication; send to tpnewseditor@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—content paper.
The City of Takoma Park law (City Code Chapter 6.20 Rent Stabilization) maintains the affordability of rental units by limiting the number and amount of rent increases charged for a specific rental unit. Generally, the rent may be increased only once in any given 12-month period. Multi-family rental units and rental condominium units are subject to Rent Stabilization. Rent increases are limited to the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index published by the Department of Bureau of Labor Statistics for the period of March 2019 through March 2020.

Beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, the Rent Stabilization Allowance is 0.4%. Landlords are required to comply with Takoma Park’s Rent Stabilization law and cannot increase the rent on occupied units any higher than this allowance. Pursuant to the City Code, a two-month written notice must be provided to the tenant(s) before you can legally increase the rent. (City Code Chapter 6.20.030(C) Notice of Annual Rent Increases).

Please note that the following units may be exempt from Rent Stabilization upon application to the City. The exemption is not automatic and must be approved by the City.

- Rental units leased to tenants under the Housing Choice Voucher Program.
- Any rental facility where the rents are regulated under contract by a governmental agency that controls the rent levels of not less than one-half of the rental units in the rental facility and restricts the occupancy of those rental units to low and moderate income tenants, and
- Newly constructed rental units for a period of five years after construction.

For more information about the requirements of the City’s Rent Stabilization law, please contact Jean Kerr, Housing Specialist at 240-672-1023 or email at jeank@takomaparkmd.gov.

Roscoe’s 4 R’s (Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle) Focus on Food Waste Composting

Q: What can you put in the City food waste buckets?
A: Most food waste can be put in the City’s white and green compost buckets – vegetables and fruits (fresh or cooked), meat, fish and shell fish (including bones), dairy, eggs (and egg shells), grains, bread, pasta, cereal, baked goods, coffee grounds, filters, compostable tea bags (no plastic, foil or foil-backed products), nuts, beans, seeds (including shells/hulls), wood / bamboo chopsticks and wood popsicle sticks, paper products (paper towels, napkins, & paper plates), and pizza boxes (remove non-food items).

Q: What can’t you put in the City food waste buckets?
A: The following items are not allowed in the food waste buckets: diapers, lacal issues, fats, oils or grease, pet waste, and Styrofoam. Also, no plastic bags, except “compostable” plastic bags – see more information on this below.

Q: Is mandatory food waste collection one of the Climate Emergency Resolution’s priority strategies?

Q: What is the difference between biodegradable and compostable plastic bags, and which can be used in compost buckets?
A: You can only use compostable “plastic” bags that are BPI Certified as “Compostable for Industrial Facilities” in the City’s compost buckets. Biodegradable bags are not accepted in this program. Compostable plastic bags are available at both the Coop and Ace Hardware (and probably at other nearby grocery stores).

Q: Where is our food waste that the City picks up composted?
A: The City takes our food waste to the Western Branch composting facility in Prince George’s County near Upper Marlboro, operated by Maryland Environmental Service.

Q: How do I register for the City’s food waste program?
A: If you live in single family home or a multifamily building with 12 apartments or less that currently is participating in City trash pickups, you can register at takomaparkmd.gov/government/public-works/curbside-collection-services/food-waste-collection. If you live in a multifamily apartment or condo building that is not participating in City trash, recycling and food waste pickups, contact your building manager or owner to find out how you can have your food waste picked up.

This article is sponsored by the Zero Waste Group, local volunteers dedicated to reducing or eliminating needless waste in Takoma Park. If you have questions or suggestions, we can be reached at: rocoes4rs@gmail.com.
The coronavirus pandemic has forced the postponement of many arts events at the Takoma Park Community Center so the Takoma Park Arts cultural series has moved online to reach people at home.

City staff have organized online poetry readings and film screenings which can be seen on the Takoma Park Arts YouTube channel at artevents.takomaparkmd.gov. There also are plans to stage online concerts to help keep the arts alive in Takoma Park, according to Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith. “The arts are more important now than ever,” Smith said. “The arts bind us together even when we’re apart and open a window to a wider world full of hope and possibilities. And we could all use some hope right now.”

The Takoma Park Arts series is sponsored by the City of Takoma Park and supports local artists and performers by providing a venue for them to share their work at the Takoma Park Community Center. All events are free with donations accepted to support the performers who also are paid honoraria from the City’s taxpayer-supported arts funding.

Art exhibitions on various themes also are staged bimonthly in the galleries at the Community Center where artists can display their work and make commission-free sales. A City TV crew films the opening receptions and interviews the artists for YouTube videos that reach an international audience. The Takoma Park Arts series represents the City’s commitment to the arts and has helped Takoma Park gain a national reputation as an arts-friendly city. The creative industry also is a key driver of Takoma Park’s economy, supporting local businesses, generating tax revenue, and enhancing the quality of life.

“If you’re going stir crazy at home, join us for a concert or poetry reading or relax with Virtual Vintage Movie Night. It will help,” Smith said.

There are more details about our online events on this page, and you can find many former events on YouTube at artevents.takomaparkmd.gov.

Please sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts for news about all our upcoming programs. Join us and celebrate the arts!

Speaking Our Truths: Poems of Identity, Place and Community


Our first online poetry reading features four local poets whose work addresses themes of identity, place and community. The poets include Marti Pates, Sosha Pinson, Tatiana Figueroa Ramirez, and Susan Scheid with an introduction by Takoma Park Poet Laureate Kathleen O’Toole.

Pates challenges the social climate of urban areas in Baltimore by exhibiting beauty in poverty-stricken neighborhoods. Originally from eastern Kentucky, Pinson’s work focuses on the complicated nature of survival in the aftermath of devastation and environmental destruction. Ramirez was born in Puerto Rico and performs and teaches poetry workshops in the D.C. area. Scheid, whose poetry has appeared in many journals, is the author of After Enchantment.

Left to right: Tatiana Figueroa Ramirez, Marti Pates, Sosha Pinson and Susan Scheid

Takoma Park Arts Moves Online

Propaganda Cartoons

Watch on YouTube at https://bit.ly/34WmKz

From silent World War I films to World War II Disney cartoons made for the U.S. government and on through the Cold War, cartoons have been used as propaganda tools that entertain while attempting to mold public opinion in subtle or blatant ways. Local film historian Richard Hall has compiled a fun screening of vintage propaganda cartoons with political, social or commercial messages that were filmed over the past century.

Travelogue Films

Watch on YouTube at https://bit.ly/2Xa0wjX

Local film historian Richard Hall has curated a collection of short vintage travelogue films dating from 1914 to the 1960s. Before many people traveled far from home, travelogues connected them to a wider world filled with different cultures, exotic animals, and breathtaking scenery. Since we’re all stuck at home now, take a virtual journey across the world with us!
“As a Community, we must vow to teach love. The hate has gone too far. But, there is still time to make things right. Please join me in vowing to teach love. Together, we can fight racism.” -Talisha Searcy, Councilmember Ward 6

#TogetherTKPK
about 36 businesses with grants mostly in the $2,000 range. When we received their applications for help, the businesses were ranked by need. Those with employees and special needs ranked higher, and we have been working through the 93 approved applications as funds become available. Now that the Council has identified additional funds, we hope to be able to assist all or most of the eligible businesses that applied for assistance over the next two months.

However, we estimate that the businesses that applied represent only about 15% of our business community, so much more work is needed. Staff has been having weekly calls with the Crossroads Development Authority and the Old Town Business Association and communicating directly with many small businesses. We will continue to provide assistance to our businesses, and we have prepared recommendations for Council consideration of the use of public space to support our small businesses and protect public health.

City administrative work has been heavy: Our staff has been working long hours on budget preparation, oversight of employee health measures and hazard pay, IT services to staff working remotely, and facilitating the City Council as they hold virtual meetings. We will continue to hold virtual meetings at this time.

Recreation, library and arts staff have been doing virtual programming, and it is wonderful! Please watch for the special summertime events. We have also been putting into place plans for upcoming new protocols. They have also been planning for direct services under new health protocols. Senior Recreation staff are studying the childcare protocols, which are quite extensive, and preparing for the fall to see if we can maintain and facilitate on how Montgomery County Public Schools decides to proceed with its classes.

The library is looking to begin contactless book lending in June. (If you still have Library books from before the pandemic started, please return them so that we can get them ready for our new program!)

Besides work for their own departments, some recreation and library staff have been helping other City efforts, from garden maintenance to assisting residents through the Emergency Assistance program.

Communications about the rapid changes that have occurred during the health emergency are key. We have been helping residents and businesses access funds and services, providing health information, and telling success stories. Our one communications specialist has had her hands full, but staff from other departments have stepped up. We have done mailings, social media, and website updates. It's a huge lift for everyone, but we are working on being accurate and targeting information to those who need it most. We will continue to communicate with residents and keep them informed during the crisis. Be sure to check out our Covid-19 Information Center at this page for updates on how to get help.

Soon our Neighborhood Services Team staff will be returning to more active service. They provide educational information regarding our Safe Grow and other environmental laws, and they do parking enforcement and property code enforcement. While enforcement of serious safety issues has continued throughout the health emergency, most parking and code enforcement activities have been on hold. We will not start regular parking enforcement right away, but now that more businesses can do curbside sales, we know there may need to be increased parking enforcement.

Even as we look at how to address City service needs this summer and fall, we also have to keep our eyes forward to next year and the year after that. We will be watching how revenue changes may affect Takoma Park. The City Council and I will have frequent discussions on that topic as we learn more. And, we need to keep our eyes on the vision and priorities for Takoma Park post-pandemic. What will we be doing to make Takoma Park a more equitable and livable community?

“Takoma Park – Safe, Strong and Supportive of Each Other” is not just a nice sentiment in theory. The pandemic has brought that home. What each of us does affects our neighbors. Wearing your mask, keeping your social distance, washing your hands, and helping each other out when we can is a health and community necessity. We are in this together!

This article was originally published May 29 on the City’s website: takomaparkmd.gov/public-notices/takoma-park-safe-strong-and-supporting-each-other.

The Fullfillery

she knew Fullfillery board member Brooke Moore from their children’s preschool. For about a year, Schauf had been investigating opening a store to sell high-quality, socially-responsible, low-impact products. “She told me one day that this group was meeting about starting a low-waste economically, low-impact products. The store is at 6411 Orchard Avenue, near the VFW’s Hell’s Bottom. Robinson rents it at below-market rates. "It works for now," he said. "Lots of parking, and it's a nice space, with a row of windows."

While the space is unconventional, the bigger surprise for first-time visitors is the aroma “People’s jaws drop because it smells so good,” Robinson said. In trying to describe it, he added, “It’s not a food smell, but it’s delicious.”

A customer might detect lavender, peppermint, lemon, licorice or cedar. “It can be a gift for the Unwrapped Life products, which smell dreamy,” Schauf said. “It’s a light smell, and all of the scents are naturally derived, so you aren’t overwhelmed by artificial perfumes.”

Unwrapped Life manufactures shampoo bars, conditioner bars, and deodorant bars. Its products are best-sellers at The Fullfillery. “No bottles, just elegant circular bars,” Schauf said. “People love it. We had people buy one for themselves as a test and then come back and buy 10 or holiday gifts.”

Launder detergent from Melora also are popular. These come as flakes that people sub-
It Takes a Village

By Vince Cain

The Recreation Department had a successful After the Bell program this year. The success of the program can be attributed to the two staff members: Latoya Gayle and Alexis Williams. Latoya served as the director of the program, and Alexis was a strong assistant director. After the Bell is an after-school program at the Takoma Park Recreation Center where the participants are provided a snack, receive homework assistance, and have the opportunity to participate in physical activities in the gymnasium.

Latoya brings with her five years of experience from the Morning and Afternoon Addition Childcare Program that is held at the Takoma Park Community Center. She credits her time working in her mother’s daycare and volunteering at summer camps for opening her eyes to the childcare field. Through these experiences, she realized she had a passion for working with kids.

Alexis’ experience as a summer camp counselor led her to follow her passion for mentoring kids. She felt she could use these experiences to add to the After the Bell Program. Alexis’ hobbies are cheerleading, cooking, and baking. She set several goals for herself to ensure a successful year for the program. Her goals were to share her knowledge with the participants, create fun activities and establish a cheerleading club.

Dancing and double-dutch are additional hobbies for Latoya. Her primary goals this year were to lead a successful After the Bell program, provide a safe environment, introduce the children to a variety of activities and establish a sign language club.

Three of the most successful special events for the program included a “Detective Day” where kids were challenged to solve a “Who did it?” mystery. An “Indoor Carnival” that included face painting, games, and a movie. They also put together an “After the Bell Luau,” which gave the kids the opportunity to participate in a variety of games highlighted by the limbo. One of the most popular activities was the “Takoma Kash” where the kids could earn this currency by showing good behavior, assisting fellow students, or helping the staff. The kids were able to spend their “Takoma Kash” at the “Takoma Market” that was set up for our students to purchase things they needed.

Are you a Senior who would like to receive occasional phone calls while staying at home? Know a Senior who might be interested? Don’t hesitate to reach out. Volunteers are at the ready. All participants must have a landline phone or cell phone. To sign up, email javontem@takomaparkmd.gov or call Ms. Paula at 240-687-4132.

TEENS

 ✓ Are you interested in politics?
 ✓ Do you want to be a part of your government?
 ✓ Do you want to serve your community?

If you live in Takoma Park, apply to the Takoma Park Youth Council by June 28.

Info and application at: tinyurl.com/tpycapp

FITNESS

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
Ages 16 & up
Thursdays, 10–11 a.m.
Free

YOUTH

DANCE

Dance Class
Exploring various dance styles that can be tried at home that include, but are not limited to, Hip-Hop, Ballet and Jazz. Instructor: Charonne Butler
Ages 6–12
Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Free

FITNESS

Recess
Opportunity for youth to virtually participate in exercise and communicate with their peers while remaining inside. Instructor: Charonne Butler
Ages 6–12
Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Free

TEENS

✓ Are you interested in politics?
✓ Do you want to be a part of your government?
✓ Do you want to serve your community?

If you live in Takoma Park, apply to the Takoma Park Youth Council by June 28.

Info and application at: tinyurl.com/tpycapp

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, 5–6 p.m.
Free

Qi Gong
Simple gentle movements to improve health, mobility, flexibility and general happiness and peace of mind. We will share exercises from many different classes, culling the ones that we practice regularly in the morning and throughout the day. You will find benefits quickly as these exercises invigorate energy systems, open joints, and relax our bodies, minds, and spirits. Open to all – no experience needed. Your health is in your hands. Instructor: Patrick Smith & Joann Malone
Ages 16 & up
Saturdays, 2–3:30 p.m.
Free

Phone a Neighbor
Are you a Senior who would like to receive occasional phone calls while staying at home? Know a Senior who might be interested? Don’t hesitate to reach out. Volunteers are at the ready. All participants must have a landline phone or cell phone. To sign up, email javontem@takomaparkmd.gov or call Ms. Paula at 240-687-4132.

55+

Fitness
Enhance Your Fitness
The class theme is posture. The class focuses on core strengthening utilizing various body strength training exercises. Instructor: Adriene Buist
55 & up
Tuesdays, 10–10:50 a.m.
Free

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

Line Dancing
An enjoyable social activity that provides great physical and mental exercise. It helps to strengthen bones and muscles. Line Dancing also increases stamina and flexibility as well as supports weight loss and stress reduction. Instructor: Barbara Brown
55 & up
Wednesdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Free

 antioxidant hobbies for Latoya. Her primary goals this year were to lead a successful After the Bell program, provide a safe environment, introduce the children to a variety of activities and establish a sign language club.

Three of the most successful special events for the program included a “Detective Day” where kids were challenged to solve a “Who did it?” mystery. An “Indoor Carnival” that included face painting, games, and a movie. They also put together an “After the Bell Luau,” which gave the kids the opportunity to participate in a variety of games highlighted by the limbo. One of the most popular activities was the “Takoma Kash” where the kids could earn this currency by showing good behavior, assisting fellow students, or helping the staff. The kids were able to spend their “Takoma Kash” at the “Takoma Market” that was set up for our students to purchase things they needed.

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Let's Get Moving!

10 Stretches Anyone Can Do at Home

You are never too old to stretch. If you are a senior looking to gain more independence, mobility, and flexibility (which helps you to avoid falls and other injuries), stretching just might be your new best friend. Studies have shown that with age, flexibility decreases by up to 50 percent in some joints. Since this decrease is gradual throughout your life, you may not even notice it. Then, one day you go to reach something or get up off the floor, and you realize that it is not easy like it used to be.

It is at this point many seniors turn to prescriptions, assistive medical equipment, or even in-home assistants to help them perform daily activities. But stretching can keep you from turning to those options.

Below are a set of exercises that seniors can do while remaining inside because of the Coronavirus Pandemic. Before you start, be sure to do a 5-10 minute warmup, incorporating light exercises, such as walking in place and arm circles, to get your muscles and joints warm before stretching.

Bed Exercises

1. Wake Up Call
   • Remove your pillow from underneath your head.
   • Stretch and reach in all directions from your fingers to your toes.
   • Shake and wiggle, gently wakening up your body.
   • Arch your back a little.
   • Now make your whole-body tense from your face to your toes. Hold for 3 seconds.
   • Relax.

2. Neck Rolls
   • Take deep breaths by inhaling through your nose and exhaling through your mouth.
   • Turn your head slowly to the right as far as comfortable, and then slowly to the left, return to center.
   • Next, keeping your head on the bed, make circular motions; first, in a clockwise movement, then counterclockwise.

3. Shoulder Stretch
   • Place a pillow under your knees.
   • Stretch fingertips toward the ceiling.
   • Reach with both hands. Hold and count to 3, relax.
   • Lift shoulders off bed as far as you can; lower shoulders, pushing gently into the bed; relax.
   • Reach toward the ceiling with right hand only (palms facing the ceiling) relax. Repeat with the left hand.
   • Now the palms flat, stretch both hands toward the ceiling, hold and relax.
   • Stretch fingertips toward your feet, point your toes down, hold, relax.
   • Finally, keeping arms straight with palms down, move both hands and arms the far apart across the bed as possible.
   • Stretch, relax. Repeat.

Stretches for Specific Body Parts

4. Elbow Stretch
   • Place fingertips on your shoulders, and raise elbows pointing to the ceiling.
   • Then, lower elbows to bed while keeping fingertips on shoulders.
   • Lift elbows again, but this time touch your elbows together in front of you, or as close as you can with-out straining.
   • Then, lower elbow to bed.
   • Now keeping fingers on your shoulders, make 5 large circles clockwise with both elbows, the repeat 5 times counterclockwise.

5. Triceps Stretch
   • Sitting tall in a chair (or standing), lift your right arm up over head, bending at your elbow.
   • Now, reach your opposite arm up to clasp your elbow, and pull gently in the opposite direction. You should feel a light stretch through the back of your arm.
   • Hold for 20 to 30 seconds, then switch arms.

6. Back Stretch
   • Start by standing tall, with your hands on your hips.
   • Gently arc backward, looking up toward the ceiling.
   • Hold for about three seconds, then return to standing.
   • Repeat 10 times.

7. Standing Quadiceps Stretch
   • Begin standing tall, holding onto the back of a chair or countertop with your free hand for balance.
   • Slowly bend your right knee and grasp your foot. At this point, you might already feel a stretch through the front of your thigh.
   • Hold this stretch for 30 seconds, then repeat on the other leg.
   • If you are having trouble reaching your foot with your hand, try using a yoga strap or band, as mentioned above.

8. Ankle Circles
   • Get comfortable in a sturdy chair, sitting up tall.
   • Extend your right leg out in front of you, keeping the other on the floor.
   • Begin to rotate your right ankle, 10 to 20 rotations clockwise and 10 to 20 counterclockwise.
   • Lower your leg and repeat on your opposite leg.

9. Seated Hip Stretch
   • Begin sitting tall in a sturdy chair.
   • Cross your right leg over your left, letting the right ankle sit atop your left knee.
   • Relax your right hip, letting gravity pull it toward the floor. You may already feel a stretch deep in your hip.
   • To go further, gently press down on your right leg and the knee for a deeper stretch.
   • Hold for 20 to 30 seconds, then switch legs.

10. Hamstring and Low Back Stretch
    • Come into this stretch by lying face-up on your bed or floor. Bend your right leg and slowly move it toward your chest.
    • Keep your shoulders flat on the floor as you reach your arms around your right knee (if you cannot reach that far, try holding your pant leg) and pull it toward you.
    • You should feel a slight stretch through your low back, glutes, and hamstring as you hold for 30 seconds.
    • Repeat on your opposite leg.

Important Message from the Recreation Department: Summer Programs and Services

The Recreation Department is working on plans for a fun and safe summer season of virtual activities and classes while being mindful of the challenges presented by COVID-19. Safety standards will require us to restructure the way we deliver leisure services, and we are working with the County and other local jurisdictions to see how our services might be provided. These decisions were not made lightly and take into account the safety of the participants and staff. After careful consideration, we’ve made the following determination regarding our services. As information changes, we are committed to providing you updated information as quickly as possible.

• Summer Camps: All in-person summer camps are canceled for the summer, and we are working to process refunds. Look for an email shortly detailing options for refunds. All camp auto payments scheduled for June 1 have also been canceled. Updates detailing future virtual summer camp offerings will be provided as soon as they are available.

• Child Care Programs: We are actively working to refund the remaining Morning/Afternoon Addition and After the Bell fees (if applicable). We are waiting to hear MCFP’s final plans for the next school year before developing a comparable program and accepting registrations. Please contact recreation@takomaparkmd.gov for more information.

• Facility Rentals: All rentals through June 30, 2020 have been canceled, and refunds are being processed. If you have any questions regarding your refund, please check your ActiveNet account or email us at recreation@takomaparkmd.gov.

• Memberships: We’ve stopped auto-renewals of all memberships at the Takoma Park Recreation Center and will extend the membership according to the length of time that the City was closed. Please send questions to recreation@takomaparkmd.gov.

• Summer Registration: Registration for our virtual summer classes and activities will soon open; watch for dates on the City’s social media pages. Classes will begin in July and will be free or have a nominal registration fee.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate these unprecedented times. Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email us at recreation@takomaparkmd.gov or call the Recreation Office during normal business hours at 301-891-7290. Please stay home and stay safe. To participate in our exciting programs and activities from home, visit us at our virtual Community Center at takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/virtual-community-center. Continue to be safe and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

Gregory Clark
Director, Recreation Department
City of Takoma Park
SummerQuest 2020 Is Coming!

By Karen MacPherson

Given the pandemic, we have had to re-think our popular SummerQuest reading program. For more than 20 years, Library Associate Dave Burbank has created an exciting new reading adventure each summer, and readers have enjoyed watching their chosen SummerQuest characters move across the big gameboard in the Children’s Room as they completed each reading challenge.

This year, however, we need to do SummerQuest differently. It’s not clear when the library will re-open, and it’s likely that we will be doing things in a very different way to limit crowding and possible exposure of the public and staff to the coronavirus, so we are bringing SummerQuest online.

Because our SummerQuest program is so unique and time has been short, we have developed a two-step process for readers to play this fun reading game this year. Once Dave completes the story and artwork for SummerQuest 2020, we will upload it to a special page on the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library website: fpml.org. And, because we will not have a giant gameboard this year, readers will be tracking their SummerQuest reading progress via an online system called ReaderZone: www.readerzone.com.

This year, readers will first consult ReaderZone with Dave’s famous rabbit characters. As readers complete a reading challenge, they note it on ReaderZone (either on the app or on a computer), and they will earn a “badge,” which will be one of Dave’s bunnies.

As always, the 10 reading challenges will be embedded in Dave’s story. To make things smoother on ReaderZone, we’ve switched up a couple of the challenges, and this year, “Read as many books as you want” is the last challenge. As part of the ReaderZone program, we’ll be putting lots of book suggestions in the “Book Bank” that readers can access when they sign up for ReaderZone. We’ll give full instructions about tracking books on ReaderZone when we launch SummerQuest.

We’ve also broadened what books can be read for SummerQuest. Usually, only books checked out from the library count for SummerQuest. This year, however, readers are welcome to read books from their home bookshelves. In addition, books streamed or downloaded from the library’s digital services (Tumblebooks and Hoopla) will count. That includes both e-books and audiobooks.

We hope to launch SummerQuest 2020 on Monday, June 8, with an online program hosted by Dave via Zoom. Stay tuned for more details! We’ll post them on our “events” calendar on our website, as well as on the library’s Facebook page, our Twitter (@takoma), in the City’s weekly “Takoma Insider” email (to subscribe, go to: takomaparkend.us6.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=7eeebe001a59359260f93ae08564b04+36659c9 and on the takomapark and public and home school listservs.

One last note: We are grateful to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for their sponsorship of SummerQuest each year for more than two decades, a sponsorship that continues this year.

Kati Knows Storytime

By Kati Nolfi

NOTE: Kati is the library’s children’s librarian, who normally led as many as five programs a week for kids. Since the library closed, Kati has been home with her husband Dave and their two children, Natasha, age 7, and Alastair, age 3. Kati’s Storytime Videos are posted on the library’s Facebook page and are available on the YouTube channel she recently created, Kati Knows Storytime.

Like everyone who works in a public service job, I was initially stumped by the prospect of “working from home.” Also, like most, I have been recording a version of what I do at work, in my case at-home preschool and family storytime. As much as I would love to do Facebook Live or Zoom, so far, we have opted for pre-recorded YouTube videos mostly because of our schedules. (Note: Kati’s husband, a middle school teacher, does the filming.) I also appreciate using iMovie to edit out the occasional laughing fits, tantrums, and kid who decides now is the right time to take off his pants!

Like lots of folks I’ve added to my tech skillset and had to get comfortable seeing myself on video, which I got over pretty quickly. Kids tend to pull focus anyway.

I’ve learned that our videos have to be short: one story and one song max. It’s quite different from an in-person program when I tend toward lots of books and supplying an abundance of craft materials and weaving in parachute play and bubbles. It’s hard for me to keep these videos short, but everyone’s attention spans and patience demands it!

Since I plan and lead craft programs at the library, I’ve also been posting – on the library’s Facebook page – about the art projects we’ve been doing at home. However, I never want to add to the mental load of parents, in terms of that expectation that parents should be constantly enriching their children with educational and artistic opportunities. I miss everyone who came to our programs and can’t wait to see you all again!

Caldecott Medalist David Shannon Creates a Video for the Library

Caldecott Medalist David Shannon was scheduled to present his hilarious new picture book, Roy Digs Dirt, at the library in early April as part of our partnership with Politics and Prose Bookstore. Then the pandemic hit, and the in-person library event had to be canceled, although David was able to do the event online via the new author program software now used by Politics and Prose.

Still, David, who won a Caldecott Honor for his book, No David! apparently felt badly for not coming to our library, and so he decided to do a special video just for us. In the nearly 19-minute video, which is aimed at kids, David draws Roy, the canine star of his new book. As he draws, David talks about drawing, dogs, being bored and more. He really knows how to connect with kids, and so the video is a treat for anyone ages 3 and up. Grown-ups also will enjoy it! At the end of the video, David writes “Roy Digs Takoma Park” on the drawing.

The actual drawing will be sent to the library once we re-open. Meanwhile, enjoy this delightful video by David by going to this link: https://youtu.be/busJ1FGO3s8
The 2020 Census is more than a population count. It’s an opportunity to shape the future of our community.

Did you know...

- For every person **not counted**, the State of MD will lose $18,200 over the next ten years?
- Your confidentiality is protected.
- You can respond to a short questionnaire: online, by phone, or by mail.
- We need to have Every Person counted of every age range, from Parents to Grandparents and all children, including newborns.

Funded Programs...

- Healthcare: including programs like Medicaid and Medicare.
- Education Programs: Head Start, Pell Grants, school lunches, and food assistance programs.
- The Census determines the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives?
Maryland fire deaths
The Maryland Fire Marshal Office reported as of June 1, 2020, 13 people have died in fires compared to 35 in 2019.

Safety message
With the Coronavirus crisis being our major concern, we must not forget fire safety in the home. Check your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and review your family fire escape plan.

Hot vehicle deaths
As of June 1, 2020, 2 children have died in hot vehicles.

This brings the grand total to 850 since 1989.

Please keep these precautions in mind and stay safe.

Contributions
Considerations for People with Differing Abilities During the COVID-19 Pandemic
By Mary Jane Muchow and Peggy Edwards, members, Parents of Special Needs Adults (POSNA)

“Old timers” may remember the story of the canaries in the mines. These birds were caged and kept under observation since they were usually the first living creatures to succumb to unhealthy conditions.

People with disabilities, especially those whose brains are affected, may be in a similar situation as the canaries during an emergency such as the current one. Like the birds, they are more vulnerable to changes in their environment. Their “cages” are the limitations caused by their disabilities and how people treat them.

All of the uncertainties that the general population is subjected to affects our families in compounded ways. People with disabilities that affect their brains may have difficulty understanding why they should stay home, wear masks, etc.

Social isolation can be a by-product of having a disability. Those in a live-in arrangement don’t go out in the community during the current local stay-at-home order. The ones with community aides are receiving visits less often, or not at all. Service providers are attempting to substitute their services with communicating by phone or computer instead of in-person visits.

Anxiety is heightened while we cope with the Coronavirus. The uncertainty of when our world will be back to normal is adding to all of our collective anxiety. Lack of routine, uncertainty of a job in the future, and delays in receiving unemployment are just some of the factors adding stress to those already suffering from anxiety. Many of our children depend on aides for some kinds of services and without the regular visits from caregivers, they become more anxious.

When caregivers look for psychiatric and psychological assistance in the current conditions, they find limitedigid is an issue, and the kinds of services and without the regular visits from caregivers, they become more anxious.

Please Help Us Stay Safe!
Trash items should be placed in plastic bags and tied closed before placing them in your trash can. This keeps trash from blowing out of the can and truck and protects our staff from possible contamination.

Please do not put loose trash out for collection—always use a plastic bag for the trash.
By Sean Gossard

As the spread of coronavirus led to the temporary closures of businesses both big and small around the country, Jesse Kirsch, founder of No Plan Press, and the City of Takoma Park decided to come up with a plan to help those struggling locally.

So Kirsch, a full-time graphic designer living in Takoma Park with his wife and two sons, designed a series of locally-inspired prints to help raise money for the Citywide Small Business Mini-Grant Program and Old Takoma Business Association Micro-Grant Program. “I’m making them to help give back to the community,” Kirsch said. “With so many people with their livelihoods placed on hold, I wanted to figure out a way to give back that was special.” The fundraiser is one part of a Takoma Park campaign to help raise money for small, independent businesses in the community.

Using Kirsch’s 130-year-old press and the trio of prints he designed, he’s been able to help raise more than $8,000 for the grant programs. “My expectations were to raise a little bit of money — like $1,000 or $2,000,” Kirsch said. “So, the fact that we passed that is great. I love that we’re doing so well and making money for businesses.”

Prints include an Azalea City design, one featuring Roscoe — Takoma Park’s iconic rooster — and a “Takoma Park Together” print that comes in a variety of paper colors. Kirsch uses a mix of digital and old-style printing for his prints. He designs the prints on his computer and then uses the 130-year-old press for the actual printing work. “I like the juxtaposition of very old technology using a press that’s over a century old and then new technology using Adobe Illustrator and the computer for my designs,” Kirsch says.

And that old-technology press has its own interesting history that Kirsch can trace back to at least 90 years. The 1,500-pound press, dated to 1890, is an old-style press that relies on the user to use a foot treadle — or peddle — to operate. “Its earliest owners can be traced back to the 1930s and a small business in Reading, Pa.,” Kirsch said. “It was owned by a Jewish printer who printed advertisements in the area.”

It later found its way to New York City, where Kirsch purchased it and hauled it to his garage. “It’s been really motivating to get such excellent working order making prints to help small businesses.”

Prints range in price from $20 – $200. But today, it’s back in action and in excellent working order making prints to help small businesses. Kirsch says the letter press eventually went out of favor in the 1950s with the invention of more affordable printing technology, and most were scrapped for their weight in metal.

Prints range in price from $20 – $200. Donations and all profits go to the Citywide Small Business Mini-Grant Program and Old Takoma Business Association Micro-Grant Program. All purchases will also be delivered for free to Takoma Park addresses. Kirsch said he’s already recouped all the costs on ink and paper, so everything that’s sold now will 100% go to the grant funds.

So far, the most popular print has been the Roscoe. Kirsch said he’s running low though on the Azalea City prints and has a good amount of the Takoma Park Together ones, which were printed in the highest quantity.

And because it’s all done by hand on the letter press, each print has its own uniqueness. As the No Press website explains, “The slight variations in color and texture of each print is what makes the letterpress printing process unique.”

“With the slight variations in color and texture of each print, it’s important for people to hold onto their letterpress print.” Kirsch says. “The more people order, the more we can get into the community.” To view and purchase prints, visit www.noplanpress.com. You can also check out Kirsch’s other prints and his press on Instagram @noplanpress.
City of Takoma Park
Public Works Department

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Day

Date: Saturday, June 13, 2020
Time: 10:00 am to 2:00

Location:
Public Works Yard
City of Takoma Park
31 Oswego Ave
Silver Spring, MD 20910

To assist residents with proper and safe disposal of hazardous waste, the Public Works Department holds an annual Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off day.

Takoma Park residents can drop off household hazardous waste for free (non-residents will be charged a $10 fee (CHECKS ONLY) at the yard at the Public Works Facility.

What Can Be Accepted at the Household Hazardous Waste Items
- Aerosol cans containing hazardous products
- Antifreeze and hydraulic fluids (5-gallon limit)
- Batteries: lithium, lithium-ion, nickel-cadmium, car (lead acid)
- Brake fluid
- Charcoal containing flammable agents
- Driveway sealant, tar
- Gasoline, gas-oil mixes, kerosene
- Herbicides, insecticides, and pesticides
- Fluorescent light tubes and ballast
- Thermostats and thermometers containing mercury
- Oil-based paints, paint thinners and solvents
- Photographic chemicals

Not Accepted Household Hazardous Waste Items
- Latex paint
- Commercial, industrial or medical wastes
- Compressed gas cylinders or radioactive materials

Questions? email:
publicworks@takomaparkmd.gov
So Many Memories

Poetry and Grief
By Kathleen O’Toole, Takoma Park Poet Laureate

In his stunning book, The Wild Edge of Sorrow, psychotherapist Francis Weller quotes a 12th century poem (author uncertain) to support his insistence that “we must become fluent in the language and customs of grief.”

“Tis a fearful thing
To love
What death can touch
To love, to hope, to dream
And oh, to lose.

A thing for fools, this
Love
But a holy thing.
To love what death can touch.

Poets, and poetry, have always offered a powerful way to honor and celebrate to elegize those we have loved and lost, also those (both well-known and unknown) who have left a mark on our lives. Not surprising that so many of us have turned to poetry as the names and stories of strangers and celebrities who have fallen to COVID-19 wash over us. I think immediately of the opening lines of Walt Whitman’s elegy to Lincoln:

When blue’s last in the dooryard bloom’d
And the great star early droop’d in the western sky in the night,
When lilacs last in the dooryard bloom’d
I mourn’d, and yet shall mourn, with ever returning spring.

I was all hers as we peeled potatoes.
Her breath in mine, our fluent dipping knives—
My head,
I remembered her head bent towards
And some were responding and some crying
Went hammer and tongs at the prayers for the dying
But a holy thing,

Cold comforts set between us,
things to share
Gleaming in a bucket of clean water.

I offer two others for your reflection. Perhaps you’ll substitute the names and stories of your own mothers and sisters, or the neighbors, bus drivers, nurses, grocery staff and musicians whose loss you want to recognize.

the last women
Lucille Clifton (1936-2010)
i need to know their names
those women i would have walked with
jauntily the way men go in groups

LGBTQ Pride Month

June is LGBTQ Pride Month! Celebrate by reading some winners of the Stonewall Book Awards, sponsored by the American Library Association’s Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table. To find award winners, go to this link: www.ala.org/rt/trt/award/stonewall/honored#2018.

Several of the Stonewall Award winners can be found as e-books and/or audiobooks on Hoopla, one of the Library’s digital offerings. If you are not already a Hoopla user, check out this link: www.takomapark.info/library/hoopla.html.

Among the Stonewall Book Award kids’ books available on Hoopla is Far from the Tree: Child by Kacen Callender, Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard by Rick Riordan, and PRIDE: Celebrating Diversity and Community by Robin Stevenson.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE
From page 8

set up in the classroom. Students could purchase items that the staff and parents donated.

Latoya’s sign language club gave the participants the opportunity to learn a new language. The kids learned the alphabet, colors and how to sign their names. With the cheerleading club, participants swinging their arms, and the ones

swinging their arms, and the ones

...what would we have called each other laughing joining into our beer? where are my gangs, my teams, my mislaid sisters? all the women who could have known me, where in the world are their names?

Clearances
In Memoriam, M.K.H
Seamus Heaney (1928 – 2013)

III.
When all the others were away at Mass I was all hers as we peeled potatoes. They broke the silence, let fall one by one Like solder weeping off the soldering iron. Cold comforts set between us, things to share

Library Continued

It’s time to return your Takoma Park Maryland Library Books!

Hooray! Sometime soon, the Takoma Park Maryland Library will launch a contactless checkout “Books-To-Go” service. Stay tuned for details. As part of getting ready for this service, we’d love it if you returned the books you took out in the mad rush before we closed. Please help us get back into the swing of things by returning your books. Our book drop is open 24/7 and checked at least once daily. No overdue fines, of course.

Online Programs

Storytime Videos
Children’s Librarian Kati Nolfi has created a number of Storytime videos and some songs and rhymes that are easily accessed via the library’s Facebook page; Kati creates two or three of the videos weekly.

Comics Jam
Join Dave Burbank for some fun reading great comics! He concludes the program by taking drawing requests from participants.

Sketch Club
Dave hosts this low-key program where everyone has fun drawing together, but each focusing on his/her own work.

To access both of these programs, go to https://zoom.us. Click on “Join a Meeting” and put in Meeting ID 734-913-6285. (If the Meeting ID changes, we will post the new one on our Facebook page and listservs)

Circle Time
Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.–11 a.m.
Ms. Karen is now doing a weekly online Circle Time via Zoom. Mr. Gabe joins Ms. Karen at Circle Time on the second Tuesday of each month.

To keep up with the library’s online activities and other fun book-related things, check the events listing on our website, www.takomapark.info/library, our Facebook page, or our Twitter (@takoma).

June 2020
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June 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 July issue is June 12, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning June 26. To submit virtual calendar items, email tpcnewseditor@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.

4th of July Parade and Evening Celebration Canceled
Due to the ongoing public health crisis around the pandemic, its likely restrictions on crowd size, and its impact on our city and community, the Takoma Park Independence Day Committee has decided to cancel the 2020 Takoma Park 4th of July Parade and Evening Celebration. We hope to celebrate the 132nd anniversary of the Takoma Park Independence Day Celebration with you all on July 4, 2021. Thank you for your support and please stay safe.

SHARE IDEAS
Attend virtual City Council meetings!

Wednesday, June 3, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, June 10, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, June 17, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, June 24, 7:30 p.m.

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

Wednesday, July 1, 7:30 p.m.
Detailed agendas are available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas.

• on Facebook (@TakomaParkMD/)
• on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/user/TakomaParkTV)

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

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

Takoma Business Micro-Grant Fund for COVID Relief

The City of Takoma Park has established a Small Business Mini-Grant Program to assist local businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. To donate, go to takomaparkmd.gov/news/help-support-takoma-park-businesses.

STAY ACTIVE
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES
Takoma Park Recreation Department
Virtual Recess
Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. – noon
It’s Zoom Recess. Join the Rec Dept. for stretching and fun fitness. For additional information contact Charonne Butler at Charonnebutler@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/events/236859234170337

Takoma Park Recreation Department
Virtual Dance Parties
Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. – noon
Youth ages 5-12 should join the Rec Dept. as Ms. Charonne teaches a different dance technique each week. For additional information contact Charonne Butler at Charonnebutler@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/events/285772547638219

Virtual Recess
Takoma Park Recreation Department
Thursdays, 10 – 11 a.m.
It's Zoom Recess. Join the Rec Dept. as Ms. Charonne teaches a different dance technique each week. For additional information contact Charonne Butler at Charonnebutler@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/events/285772547638219

Virtual Dance Parties
Takoma Park Recreation Department
Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. – noon
Youth ages 5-12 should join the Rec Dept. as Ms. Charonne teaches a different dance technique each week. For additional information contact Charonne Butler at Charonnebutler@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/events/285772547638219

GOING TO MARKET
Takoma Park Food Pantry
First Saturdays, noon – 3 p.m.
Grace United Methodist Church, 7001 New Hampshire Ave.
Bi-weekly and monthly food supplements for needy families. Also available Monday through Friday by appointment only. For appointments call 240-456-2092 or email educerareSup@Aol.com.

FREE Programs

Food Pantry at Takoma Park Middle School
The Difference Makers at TPMS have a food pantry for families. During the school closing, volunteers will continue to provide food for families’ needs. To donate food, go to https://amzn.to/2wFHqI4 for order nonperishable items that will be delivered to TPMS.

Crossroads Farmers Market
William Paca Plaza
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Food for families’ needs. To donate food, go to https://amzn.to/2wFHqI4 for order nonperishable items that will be delivered to TPMS.

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