WHAT’S NEW?

Holiday Happenings
Page 12

Grants for Accessory Dwelling Units
Page 4

Winter Coat Drive
Page 4

City Election Results
Page 6

Holidays for City Staff

Christmas Holiday
City offices will be closed from 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 24 through Friday, Dec. 25.

New Year’s Holiday
City offices will be closed at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31 and Friday, Jan. 1. The regular schedule will resume on Monday, Jan. 4.

Trash holidays

Christmas Collections scheduled for Friday, Dec. 25 will happen a day early, on Thursday, December 24.

New Year’s Collections scheduled for Friday, Jan. 1, 2021, will happen a day earlier, on Thursday, Dec. 31.

Look for this Icon throughout this issue
See page 14

Takoma Park turned out to vote

The City held its first ever vote by mail election on November 3, 2020. Every active registered voter of the City was sent a ballot by mail. Voters could return their ballots by U.S. mail; place them in a secure drop box at the Takoma Park Recreation Center or at the Takoma Park Community Center, or vote on Election Day at the Takoma Park Community Center. In sum, 6,549 ballots were counted.

Nuclear-Free Takoma Park celebrates 37 years of landmark ordinance

By Sean Gossard

Nearly four decades after Takoma Park passed its landmark nuclear-free ordinance, the Nuclear-Free Takoma Park committee believes there is still plenty of work to be done in the fight against nuclear weapons.

The ordinance (Chapter 14.04 of the Takoma Park Municipal Code), passed in December of 1983, does not allow the producing, storing or transporting of nuclear weapons in the city nor does it allow the city to do business with companies that benefit from the nuclear weapons industry. Takoma Park was one of the first municipalities in the U.S. to enact such stringent anti-nuclear legislation and the first to include the provision prohibiting formalities or procedures that benefit from nuclear weapons.

In 2015, CCI’s Takoma Park Health Center was recognized as a Level Two Primary Care Medical Home by the National Committee for Quality Assurance, meaning the provider has invested in a model of care that puts patients at “the forefront and where continuous quality improvement is a priority,” according to the group’s website.

Bruton likens CCI to the YMCA, in that they are non-discriminatory — taking patients of any socio-economic status — and are very community-minded.

Health services amid growing pandemic

By Sean Gossard

Between a worsening global pandemic and the open enrollment for the Affordable Care Act — or Obamacare — ending on December 15th, now is a great time to learn more about what kind of community health services can be found in Takoma Park.

In Montgomery County and parts of Prince George’s County, CCI Health & Wellness Services has been providing primary care and other health services to under-served communities since 1972. Roughly 97 percent of its patients live at or below the poverty line, according to its website.

CCI focuses on services like primary care, dental care and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition education and food supplement program. They are also a provider of family planning services as well as maternal and infant care.

“We provide comprehensive primary care, so anything you’d see at any doctor’s office we also have. Physicals, vaccinations, management of chronic conditions,” said CCI president and CEO Dr. Sonya Bruton. “We also, as part of our mission, handle and take care of things that impact your physical health like mental well-being and social assistance.”

CCI operates in the Hampshire-Langley Shopping Center in Takoma Park — along with more than a dozen other locations around the county area — where it provides medical, dental, and behavioral health services to thousands in the community.

In 2015, CCI’s Takoma Park Health Center was recognized as a Level Two Primary Care Medical Home by the National Committee for Quality Assurance, meaning the provider has invested in a model of care that puts patients at “the forefront and where continuous quality improvement is a priority,” according to the group’s website.

Bruton likens CCI to the YMCA, in that they are non-discriminatory — taking patients of any socio-economic status — and are very community-minded.

Information and Resources: Covid19 takomaparkmd.gov

Questions, Comments and Suggestions askus@takomaparkmd.gov

#TogetherTKPK

Inside

Sidewalk Stencils Page 5
Self-Defense Strategies Page 9
Christmas Tree Sale Page 12
CITY BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
Thursday, December 10, 7 p.m.

COMPLETE SAFE STREETS COMMITTEE
Thursday, December 10, 7 p.m.

FAÇADE ADVISORY BOARD
Tuesday, December 13, 6:30 p.m.

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE
Tuesday, December 8, 7:30 p.m.

PARKING MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
Thursday, December 3, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 17, 6:30 p.m.

POLICE CHIEF’S ADVISORY BOARD
Monday, December 21, 7 p.m.

RECREATION COMMITTEE
Thursday, December 17, 7 p.m.

TREE COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, December 8, 6:30 p.m.

YOUTH COUNCIL
Sunday, December 6, 3:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 20, 3:30 p.m.

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

ADA NOTICE
The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities can fully participate in public meetings. Anyone with a disability who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations at a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing is invited to contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at jessie@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7287 at least 48 hours in advance.
President and CEO of CCI Health & Wellness Services Dr. Sonya Bruton gives a tour of the Takoma Park facility to Mayor Kate Stewart in August.

HEALTH SERVICES

From page 1

oriented. “We are a community health center, which means we exist to support the entire community. We, by mandate, are required to see anyone who needs a medical doctor,” Bruton said. “We see people regardless of their residency status. If they’re undocumented we are part of a health-care safety net that takes care of them.”

CCI is also helping combat the COVID-19 outbreak by offering testing at its sites. According to Bruton, through grants from Montgomery County, CCI will be able to provide rapid testing by the end of 2020, allowing tests to be returned in only 15 minutes. CCI says through the pandemic it has continued to honor its commitment as a local employer and the pandemic it has continued to honor in only 15 minutes. CCI says through the pandemic it has continued to honor its commitment as a local employer and kept its roughly 300 employees — including over 30 in Takoma Park — on staff through the pandemic.

“Our patients have been great about coming over 30 in Takoma Park — on staff keeping our roughly 300 employees, including over 30 in Takoma Park — on staff through the pandemic. Our patients have been great about coming to see us,” Bruton said. With open enrollment into the ACA closing on Dec. 15, along with the pandemic, Bruton said now is the most important time to have a handle on your health options.

“No is the time to really pay attention to be on top of our health,” she said. “Some people might be in a category called medical orphans, who haven’t established themselves with a medical professional for one reason or another. Now is the time to get set up with a steady and consistent provider.”

If you are unsure how to sign up for the ACA or if you need to find out if you are eligible, CCI can help guide people through the process. And she said getting care through CCI is a way to stay healthy and help support Takoma Park and the surrounding communities. “It’s like buying local,” she said. “Those dollars you are spending for care at CCI are working to make the entire community better."

We Belong Here

Equity Walk FAQs

Tired of sitting at your desk or hanging around the house? Need a movement break? Looking for an engaging family activity that’s local, educational and gets you moving? Look no further! Check out We Belong Here, Takoma Park’s new equity themed, interactive StoryMap. Read the FAQs to get started:

Q: What is the We Belong Here StoryMap?
A: A story map is a web tool created with context, maps, text, photos, and video as a stand-alone resource to help users explore the content. We Belong Here is a StoryMap that provides a safe space for discussion and exploration of equity issues.

Q: This sounds fun, how do I get started?
A: Visit We Belong Here the Takoma Park Community Center or Anne Street. Look for activities stenciled on the sidewalk and the QR code nearby. Scan the QR code with your smartphone and We Belong Here will pop up! Each station has a physical activity and thoughtful questions to prompt discussion equity issues. Start at any station, visit one at a time of all at once. Check out the resources tied to each station.

To plan your visit ahead or access the resources later, find We Belong Here on the City website. Browse through the stations, discussion questions, resources and book suggestions for all ages from our Takoma Park Librarians. You can even check the Takoma Park Library catalog for book availability! You’ll even find We Belong Here in Spanish and Amharic!

Q: What are the links to find this great resource?
A: We Belong Here: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/af624e1ced86a3239b807c5c484340


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
Vol. 59, No. 12

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 tnnewseditor@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 Takoma Park Equity Walk makes its debut.
Apply for food stamp benefits today

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, is the largest federal nutrition assistance program. SNAP provides benefits to eligible low-income individuals and families via an Electronic Benefits Transfer Card. This card can be used like a debit card to purchase eligible food in authorized retail food stores. SNAP benefits can ease some of the tough choices many households have to make like deciding between food and housing and medicine or bills.

Maryland has one of the highest costs of living of any state in the country, making it tough for many individuals and families to make ends meet. SNAP offers benefits to many groups: families, seniors, and other vulnerable Marylanders.

Food-insecure Marylanders – SNAP provides supplemental nutrition to more than 610,000 Marylanders in an average month. This includes working families, seniors, and other vulnerable Marylanders.

The local business community – Every $1 spent through the SNAP program has nearly double that economic impact positively impacting health, safety, education, and our local economies.

Benefits Transfer Card. This card can be used like a debit card to purchase eligible food in authorized retail food stores. SNAP offers benefits to eligible low-income families to make ends meet. SNAP offers benefits to many groups: families, seniors, and other vulnerable Marylanders.

How to Apply

Online

You can apply for SNAP online at mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us. You can also apply by mail or fax. If you apply online, please capture and retain the control number provided (a nine-digit number starting with the letter “S”) so that you can track your application until you are contacted by a staff member to complete the interview and application evaluation process.

Telephone

Montgomery County DHHS - Silver Spring Center 240-777-3100
Montgomery County DHHS - TESS Center 240-773-8260
Maryland Hunger Solutions 1-866-821-5552

Rental Housing License Renewal

All rental housing license holders with licenses expiring on 12/31/2020 have been notified via email of the renewal process. The licensing fee for annual and biennial licenses renewed for, or initiated in, 2021 is $111 per unit. If you have questions about the renewal of your rental housing license, or the process of obtaining a new rental housing license, please contact Patti Mallin, licensing specialist, at pattim@takomaparkmd.gov or 240-315-6721.

WINTER COAT DRIVE

Do you have coats, gloves or scarves that you don’t need anymore? Please consider donating them! The Takoma Park Police Department, in partnership with the Takoma Park Adventist Church, is collecting clean, gently used warm coats in any size from infant to adult. The coats will be donated to people in need. This coat drive can make a difference in the lives of others by simply donating coats and jackets that are no longer needed. We will also accept clean, gently used gloves/mittens and scarves.

Drive Duration

Start date: Monday, November 2
End date: Friday, December 18, at 4:00 pm

A large box will be in the lobby of the Takoma Park Police Department, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. Takoma Park Police Department will ensure that they are given to the church during and after the drive. Give warmth to those in need this winter! Thank you for your generosity. If you have questions, please contact Catherine Plevy at 301-891-7142 or cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov.

New ADU Grant Program announced

“The Takoma Park City Council has set aside $80,000 for the current fiscal year (ending June 30, 2021) to assist in bringing these units up to code. Up to Code grants will be awarded on a first come, first served basis to applicants fulfilling all requirements. Qualifed applicants are eligible for a grant (minimum $1,000; maximum $10,000) to bring a unit into code-compliance in response to issues identified by County inspectors during an ADU permit application inspection. The grant amount will be paid either to the applicant as a reimbursement for approved work or directly to the licensed contractor.

Visit takomaparkmd.gov/grants for details on eligibility and the application process. Contact Patti Mallin, licensing specialist, at pattim@takomaparkmd.gov or 240-315-6721.

COVID-19 TESTING

WEEKLY FREE COVID-19 TESTING

Sligo Adventist Church
7700 Carroll Avenue

Every Wednesday
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

Details:
• Walk-in and drive-thru COVID-19 testing
• Testing is FREE
• Testing Helpline: 240-777-1755 for questions or assistance with testing

No identification cards, insurance card, doctor’s note, or payment required!
Giant Robot and Bear Tracks Spotted at B.Y. Morrison Park

A giant robot, floating balloons, and trails of animal tracks have been spotted at B.Y. Morrison Park.

The colorful stencils are part of a new public art project from the City of Takoma Park’s Arts and Humanities Division to enliven the park at the corner of Carroll Avenue and Ethan Allan Avenue. Thousands of children are staring at computer screens at home for online learning because many local schools have been closed due to COVID-19 concerns. Kids need more places to play and socialize with each other, said Arts and Humanities Division Coordinator Brendan Smith.

“B.Y. Morrison Park is underused now, so we wanted to add some fun elements so that children and their families will have another place to go outdoors,” Smith said. “People should still wear masks and practice social distancing as long as those restrictions are in place.”

The stencils were painted on Nov. 10 by City of Takoma Park employees and Gloria Tseng-Fischer, a local architect and artist who serves on the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission. Local artists Chris Ha and Ami Hernandez also painted three picnic tables with colorful fruit designs through funding from the Arts and Humanities Division and Main Street Takoma.

The Guardians of the Neighborhood mural that was in the pavilion at the park has been removed and returned to the artist because it has been severely damaged from the elements since it was installed 28 years ago. The Arts and Humanities Division plans to hire an artist to paint a new chalkboard wall there, so kids and adults can share their own thoughts and artistic creations.

“Public art is crucial during times of crisis,” Smith said. “It provides a creative outlet and a source of community spirit that is really needed right now. The arts help keep us connected even when we’re apart.”

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. You can find more details and sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at takomaparkmd.gov/arts.
ELECTION RESULTS

From page 1

obtain the election results listed on page 6. Voter turnout exceeded 50 percent.

Detailed voter turnout information and other statistics will be provided in the February issue of the Takoma Park Newsletter. For now, we can report that the number of votes far exceeds that of recent elections. In 2017, 2,581 voters participated in the election. In 2015, 2,552 voters cast ballots. Almost 69 percent of 16- and 17-year old registered voters cast ballots in the 2020 election.

“The Board of Elections, Jessie Carpenter, Irma Nalvarte, the two elections interns, City TV, and Donna Wright are truly heroes in handling this election. Lars Desalvo and the IT staff spent many, many hours doing what was needed to record and store the security video of the elections drop boxes. John Lupari and our facilities staff decorated the building with flags and helped get things set up to accommodate the voters and elections staff. It was all awesome to see.”

—Suzanne Ludlow, City Manager, City of Takoma Park

Residents turned out to vote solo and with family.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mayor</th>
<th>Ward 1</th>
<th>Ward 2</th>
<th>Ward 3</th>
<th>Ward 4</th>
<th>Ward 5</th>
<th>Ward 6</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
<th>Elected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roger Schlegel</td>
<td>599</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>2,386</td>
<td>36.7%</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Stewart</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>4,083</td>
<td>62.8%</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write In</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,488</td>
<td>1,417</td>
<td>1,558</td>
<td>661</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>784</td>
<td>6,498</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City Council - Ward 1</th>
<th>City Council - Ward 4</th>
<th>City Council - Ward 5</th>
<th>City Council - Ward 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Peter Kovar</strong></td>
<td><strong>Terry Seamens</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sawa Kamara</strong></td>
<td><strong>Talisha Searcy</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,403</td>
<td>608</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97.8%</td>
<td>98.5%</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
<td>98.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Write In</strong></td>
<td><strong>Write In</strong></td>
<td><strong>Jarrett Smith</strong></td>
<td><strong>Write In</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>63.8%</td>
<td>.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,435</td>
<td>617</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>City Council - Ward 2</strong></th>
<th>% of Total</th>
<th>Elected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cindy Dyballa</strong></td>
<td>1,241</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Write In</strong></td>
<td>69</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,310</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>City Council - Ward 3</strong></th>
<th>% of Total</th>
<th>Elected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kacy Kostiuk</strong></td>
<td>1,030</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Olly Swyers</strong></td>
<td>502</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Write In</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,538</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>City Council - Ward 4</strong></th>
<th>% of Total</th>
<th>Elected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Terry Seamens</strong></td>
<td>608</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Write In</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>617</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>City Council - Ward 5</strong></th>
<th>% of Total</th>
<th>Elected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sawa Kamara</strong></td>
<td>212</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jarrett Smith</strong></td>
<td>376</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Write In</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>590</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>City Council - Ward 6</strong></th>
<th>% of Total</th>
<th>Elected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Talisha Searcy</strong></td>
<td>726</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Write In</strong></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>740</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
the city from doing business with industries and institutions engaged in the production of nuclear weapons.

“Our city doesn’t do business with nuclear weapons contractors,” longtime Takoma Park activist Susan Abbott told The Washington Post in 1983 after the ordinance’s passing, “but we have a real democracy in this town. We have the power to set an example for communities where this might make an economic difference.”

What started around the kitchen tables of several Takoma Park residents has turned into a life-long mission for some. “Basically in 37 years, we’ve kept our mission,” said Jay Levy, Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee chairman. “And people say that’s old-time stuff and who cares, but it’s not. We are still fighting for a ban on the City doing business with banks who contribute to nuclear production through loans.”

In 37 years since its enactment, according to Levy, there have only been three exceptions allowing the City to do business with companies that benefit from the nuclear industry, including buying computers from Hewlett-Packard for the library. “I took all the strongest legislation I could find and put it into one piece that passed the City Council,” Levy said. “Very frankly, we have international recognition because of the ordinance.”

One issue the committee has set its sights on for the past few years has been the city’s banking through SunTrust, which invests in companies that make nuclear weapons. “Takoma Park has been banking with SunTrust for 15-20 years and does more than 20 banking services with the city,” Levy said. “About four years ago, we asked the city to change banks.”

So far, the city has not budged on changing banks, but that has not slowed the committee, and there is still plenty to get done. “We think we’re still relevant and looking at the bigger picture,” Levy said. “Under [President Barack] Obama, legislation was passed to refurbish existing nuclear weapons. And under [President Donald] Trump it got a lot worse. They got out of two nuclear treaties, so it’s even more reason to keep doing what we’re doing.”

To commemorate the anniversary of the ordinance passing, the committee will be holding a screening of “The Nuns, The Priests, and the Bombs” at 8 p.m. Dec. 10 on Takoma Park City TV. The documentary follows nuclear disarmament activists challenging the security and legality of the U.S.’s nuclear weapons when they break into top-secret facilities in Tennessee and Washington state. The showing will be followed by a short discussion and coincides with International Human Rights Day.

And if you are interested in volunteering with the Nuclear-Free committee there are a few seats open. “We haven’t had a full board for many years. we’ve just had four or five people working on this,” Levy said. “We’ve been operating with a less than full deck, but we’re still very active.”

Editor’s Note: Even though the Council would like to see the City’s banking services and investments be more community-serving and not indirectly supporting the nuclear weapons industry, the Council was concerned about the financial cost of the transition and the race equity impacts on Public Works and other staff regarding cashing their payroll checks. A request for proposals for banking services would need to be issued to help determine the options available to the City. The Council will be setting its 2020-2022 priorities in January and may consider proceeding with the request for proposals process.
**FITNESS**

**CREATIVE MOVEMENT & LITERACY with Carla**

These 30-40 minute classes will include creative movement, dance, music, songs, and books. Classes will be fun and 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

Starting January 14

Free

**ART**

Be Creative Arts & Crafts

Have fun being creative. Turn household recycled items into art and useful projects. Each week we will create a new project: paper, plastic bottles, cans, yarn, embroidery thread, magazines and more. Learn to braid, sew, embroider, make paper beads and more. Instructor: Carla Perlo 6–12 years

Starting January 12–12:30 p.m.

Starting January 16

Free

**DANCE**

**Youth Dance**

We encourage you to join us as Ms. Charmone teaches a different dance technique weekly. Show off your skills in this fun and free class. Be sure to get to class a few minutes early. Clear the floor and get ready to move! Instructor: Charmone Butler 5–12 years

Sundays, 11–11:30 a.m.

Starting January 9

Free

**FITNESS**

**R rhythmic Break**

It’s Zumba Rhythmic Break! Join Ms. Charmone for stretching, fun and fitness! Spreading the word spreads more fun! Instructor: Charmone Butler 5–12 years

Saturdays, 10–10:30 a.m.

Starting January 9

Free

**EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT**

**The College Accommodations Process**

Students with health conditions and physical disabilities have a different set of considerations to navigate when transitioning to college. This free webinar will explore the additional challenges that these students may face. Topics include self-advocacy, IDEA vs. ADA, expectations, and how to document a disability. For more information, contact javontem@takomaparkmd.gov.

Grades 6–12

1 Day Session

Wednesday, 4–5 p.m.

December 2

Free

**CRAFTING FOR CASH**

Crafting for Cash will teach participants to create custom craft pieces like dolls, felt books, scarves, hats, and lip balm’s that can then be sold to generate income (or keep as mementos). Participants will learn to sew, crochet, and make homemade lip balm as well as the tools needed to plan and market small home business. Registration is required, and materials will be provided.

Grades 6–12

Tuesdays, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

January 12–March 30

Free

**MEDITATION, MUDRAS & TEA**

Meditation, Mudras and Tea is part class, part experience. Dive into the world of guided meditation along with hand mudras, gestures that promote healing, psychological balance, and spiritual awakening. The Sanskrit word “Mudra” can be translated as “gesture,” “seal,” “attitude” or “signature,” and the use of mudras has been incorporated into almost all wisdom traditions throughout the world and notably in yoga. Option to pair your meditation practice with a cup of tea (specific teas will be suggested) with teachings on that particular flower/herb as both a physical and mental healing aid and 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 January 13

Free

**RESS**

**Get Your Yoga Mats and Water Bottles and Join Us virtually on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. for a fun and energized session to work out and get fit.**

Limited spaces available; registration required.

For more information, contact viecim@takomaparkmd.gov.

Grades 6–12

Saturdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Starting January 9

Free

**MULTIMEDIA**

**Madden NFL 21 Tournament (XBOX)**

This event spotlights the best 16 Xbox One players against each other for a single game elimination tournament. Players will invite each other to a match and play online every Thursday. Requirements: Xbox Live Subscription, Xbox One Console, Madden 21 Game, Email Address, Internet Connection. For more information, contact javontem@takomaparkmd.gov.

11–16 years

Thursdays, 5–6 p.m.

December 3-December 10

Free

**ART**

**Pandamit Painting**

This form of Qi Gong is one of the most ancient continuously practiced healing exercises 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 your own hands. Instructors: Patrick Smith & JoAnn Malone 16 and older

Tuesdays, 7–7:30 p.m.

Starting January 12

Free

**ADULT**

**Meditation, Mudras & Tea**

Meditation, Mudras and Tea is part class, part experience. Dive into the world of guided meditation along with hand mudras, gestures that promote healing, psychological balance, and spiritual awakening. The Sanskrit word “Mudra” can be translated as “gesture,” “seal,” “attitude” or “signature,” and the use of mudras has been incorporated into almost all wisdom traditions throughout the world and notably in yoga. Option to pair your meditation practice with a cup of tea (specific teas will be suggested) with teachings on that particular flower/herb as both a physical and mental healing aid and 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 January 13

Free

**Virtual Fitness Classes**

**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 Asefare 16 and older

Wednesdays, 10–11 a.m.

Starting January 13

Free

**Rise and Move**

This class will strengthen your muscles (including your heart), increase mobility in your joints, provide you with energy, and improve your coordination. Your coach will educate, guide, and assist you throughout the entire class to ensure you are performing movements safely and effectively.

Equipment needed: Floor space, high back chair, mat, and weights (optional).

18 and older

Mondays, 10–11 a.m.

Starting January 25

Free
Virtual Karate Self Defense

If you are looking for a class during the winter months, try our Virtual Karate Self Defense Class. This class will provide you with a skill, and it will get you into shape or keep you toned. This will be a beginner class, so do not feel intimidated. We have the right instructor to teach you the correct way to punch, kick, and maneuver. Ellen Marcus, a Takoma Park resident, will be leading this virtual class. Ellen is a student of the Karate Club that meets at the Takoma Park Recreation Center. Ellen is currently a green belt. Her next goal is a brown belt, which will put her one step away from her ultimate goal: a black belt. Let’s learn a little more about Ellen.

Q: When did you become interested in Karate and why?
A: I spent a good portion of my career working in anime/ animation, and I have always had a passionate interest in the mechanics behind human locomotion. I have also been in situations where I needed to defend myself. Back in grade school, I dabbled in Taekwondo because I was getting pushed around a lot. It helped build confidence, and I was bullied a lot less after just six months of training. I stopped taking it for a long time. Then, many years later (after moving to Maryland in 2008), I discovered the Isshin-Ryu Karate Club of Takoma Park. I initially joined because I wanted to connect with my new neighborhood, show my young daughter that girls can take karate, and be as prepared as I can if someone were to behave dangerously towards me or my family. My reasons for continuing include my interest in basic physics and movement of the human body.

Q: What do you hope people will take away from your class?
A: Virtual classes pose many challenges to teaching something like hands-on like karate. The good news is you can still successfully practice and learn many things in karate without physically engaging with a Sensei (instructor). The “kata” (sequence of movements that make up a battle scenario where you are defending yourself) are almost always practiced without physical contact and require the use of your imagination. This class will focus primarily on punching, kicking, and maneuvering around (the building blocks of every kata). My hope is that it will acquaint the beginner with some Isshin-Ryu karate stances, blocks, kicks, and punches as well as offer some insight into body mechanics. Anyone with more experience will gain a workout and a refresher course.

Q: Why do you think it’s important to learn Karate and self-defense?
A: Taking self-defense classes can prepare your mind and body for situations that you never see coming. It’s not like putting on a bullet-proof vest, though. You do not become skilled in defensive strategies after taking just a few classes. Self-defense is something you need to keep working at to maintain. I say it’s important to take it, but it’s equally as important to continue to practice, to learn new things, and to practice those new things until they become second-nature and then continue to maintain memory of those things. I think of Karate as an important tool in helping a person stay focused and interested in both learning and practicing self-defense strategies over the course of a lifetime. In addition, the importance of learning how your body moves can be your greatest ally in preventing injury while performing any sport or exercise.

Q: What are your hobbies?
A: I run about 3 times per week. Running helps clear my mind and reduce stress. I also love to garden with native plants whenever I can catch a spare hour or two. Lately I’ve been using all my spare time to sew facemasks, but I hope to get back to gardening soon. This sounds like an interesting class and a great time to learn some self-defense skills while in the comfort of your own home. This eight-week class will start on Monday, January 25 at 6:30 p.m. Find the meeting information. We are looking for Takoma Park Seniors who would like an occasional phone call during this time of uncertainty. 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.

Phone a Neighbor
We are looking for Takoma Park Seniors who would like an occasional phone call during this time of uncertainty. 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.

The class focuses on core strengthening utilizing various body strength training exercises. Instructor: Adrienne Bust

Enhance Your Fitness

This class is for active older adults who are interested in using the original moves you love at a lower intensity. This class is perfect for those who 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 (one-, two-, or three-pound weights depending on fitness level) and/or a resistance tube; also have a towel and water bottle nearby. Equipment is not provided. Instructor: Michael Williams

55 and older

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10-11 a.m.
Starting January 12
Free

Mobile Photography

Learn the secret formulas to capturing beautiful photos. Get to know your digital camera and other equipment such as filters, tripods, and photography bags. Subjects include composition, the elements of design, post-processing, printing, and storytelling. Instructor: Vinny Mwano

Starting January 14
Free

Vinny Mwano
16 and older

Thursdays, 6-7 p.m.

Live from page 8

If you are looking for a class during the winter months, try our Virtual Karate Self Defense Class. This class will provide you with a skill, and it will get you into shape or keep you toned. This will be a beginner class, so do not feel intimidated. We have the right instructor to teach you the correct way to punch, kick, and maneuver. Ellen Marcus, a Takoma Park resident, will be leading this virtual class. Ellen is a student of the Karate Club that meets at the Takoma Park Recreation Center. Ellen is currently a green belt. Her next goal is a brown belt, which will put her one step away from her ultimate goal: a black belt. Let’s learn a little more about Ellen.

Q: When did you become interested in Karate and why?
A: I spent a good portion of my career working in anime/animation, and I have always had a passionate interest in the mechanics behind human locomotion. I have also been in situations where I needed to defend myself. Back in grade school, I dabbled in Taekwondo because I was getting pushed around a lot. It helped build confidence, and I was bullied a lot less after just six months of training. I stopped taking it for a long time. Then, many years later (after moving to Maryland in 2008), I discovered the Isshin-Ryu Karate Club of Takoma Park. I initially joined because I wanted to connect with my new neighborhood, show my young daughter that girls can take karate, and be as prepared as I can if someone were to behave dangerously towards me or my family. My reasons for continuing include my interest in basic physics and movement of the human body.

Q: What do you hope people will take away from your class?
A: Virtual classes pose many challenges to teaching something like hands-on like karate. The good news is you can still successfully practice and learn many things in karate without physically engaging with a Sensei (instructor). The “kata” (sequence of movements that make up a battle scenario where you are defending yourself) are almost always practiced without physical contact and require the use of your imagination. This class will focus primarily on punching, kicking, and maneuvering around (the building blocks of every kata). My hope is that it will acquaint the beginner with some Isshin-Ryu karate stances, blocks, kicks, and punches as well as offer some insight into body mechanics. Anyone with more experience will gain a workout and a refresher course.

Q: Why do you think it’s important to learn Karate and self-defense?
A: Taking self-defense classes can prepare your mind and body for situations that you never see coming. It’s not like putting on a bullet-proof vest, though. You do not become skilled in defensive strategies after taking just a few classes. Self-defense is something you need to keep working at to maintain. I say it’s important to take it, but it’s equally as important to continue to practice, to learn new things, and to practice those new things until they become second-nature and then continue to maintain memory of those things. I think of Karate as an important tool in helping a person stay focused and interested in both learning and practicing self-defense strategies over the course of a lifetime. In addition, the importance of learning how your body moves can be your greatest ally in preventing injury while performing any sport or exercise.

Q: What are your hobbies?
A: I run about 3 times per week. Running helps clear my mind and reduce stress. I also love to garden with native plants whenever I can catch a spare hour or two. Lately I’ve been using all my spare time to sew facemasks, but I hope to get back to gardening soon. This sounds like an interesting class and a great time to learn some self-defense skills while in the comfort of your own home. This eight-week class will start on Monday, January 25 at 6:30 p.m. Find the link to this and other virtual classes at takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc.

55 and older

Wednesdays, 2:15–3:15 p.m.
Starting January 13
Free

Yoga for Healthy Aging

This class helps build strength and endurance, increase flexibility and range-of-motion, improve posture and balance, and create a general sense of well-being. Special attention is paid to bone health and preventing/reversing bone loss related to osteoporosis. Work at your own pace in this carefully sequenced class that uses a series of seated, chair, standing, and floor poses and incorporates breathing and relaxation techniques. Students need to provide their own yoga sticky mat, a straight-backed chair, access to a wall, a yoga belt for equivalent, e.g., a necktie), a tennis ball, preferably a yoga block and blanket. Instructor: Carol Mermey

55 and older

Wednesdays, 2:15–3:15 p.m.
Starting January 13
Free

“Zumba” Gold

This class is for active older adults who are looking for a modified Zumba class that recasts 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: Yoanka Flores

55 and older

Wednesdays, 2:15–3:15 p.m.
Starting January 13
Free
Holiday Reading

The holidays – Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa – are coming up, and we have some great holiday books for all ages. For young readers, you can request a bundle of holiday picture books (specify which holiday you’re interested in) through our “Books-to-Go” curbside service program, and we’ll choose some books for you.

If you prefer to browse online through our holiday books to see what we have, go to www.takomapark.lib.md.us/library. Click on the Catalog button, then click on Advanced Search (one of the purple and white boxes right under the “Advanced Search” search box). In Advanced Search, click on “Subject” at the top of the search page and put the holiday in which you are interested. Then, scroll down further in “Advanced Search” to find further ways to limit your search, if you’re looking just for kids books, for example, click on “Juvenile Book,” or if you’re looking for holiday music, click on “CD-Music.”

This year may be a good time to bake or craft some gifts. While the Internet has plenty of recipes and craft ideas, for many of us there’s still something special about holding a book in your hands and browsing through its pages. The library an extensive section of cookbooks for adults, as well as some great cookbooks for kids. Plus we have craft books for both kids and adults. Use our catalog to find what you’re looking for, or to have us choose some cookbooks or craft books for you – use our “Books-to-Go” program and send an email to library@takomaparkmd.gov. Let us know what kinds of cooking or crafts you are interested in, as well as whether it is for kids or adults, and we’ll pull together a selection of books for you!

BOOK REVIEW

Editor’s Note: These reviews are from a student who writes for SSL hours. Thank you, Amy, for choosing diverse books with color of children’s color.

Front Desk by Kelly Yang

Yang is about a little girl named Mia. She is going through a tough time working at a motel trying to earn money for her family. Her parents hopped around looking for a job to support their family. Finally, they come across a motel job. Will they be able to earn enough money from this job?

Some readers might really enjoy this book because they might say, “Hey, that’s what I’m going through right now.” They could feel a bit upset because they also live in a motel. Since Mia could achieve her dream, they might think, “Hey, if I work hard enough like Mia, I might be able to do the same.” (Editor’s Note: Check out Yang’s follow-up, Three Keys. These books are based on Yang’s real life experience.)

Amina’s Voice by Hena Khan is about Amina and her struggles at home and at school. Will she lose her best friend to someone who was once her enemy? Readers would enjoy this book because they might feel lost about losing their best friend to someone they don’t like. This happened to Amina in the book. On the other hand, some people might dislike this book because they might not be able to understand the foreign language in the book. Also, they might not like the main character, Amina, because she doesn’t speak up, and some people might find it frustrating.

While you return library books, they are quarantined for up to five days, for staff and patron safety, before they are checked in, so they will remain on your library card until then. There are no overdue fines for late books, but if you have overdue books on your card, then you won’t be able to check out more books until they are returned and checked in.

Storytime videos: Children’s Librarian Kati Nolfi is continually adding new Storytime Videos on her YouTube channel. Kati Knows Storytime. The videos are brief, free, and fun as Kati reads a picture book from the library’s vast collection. Among her most recent Storytime Videos is one highlighting the new picture book, We Will Rock Our Classmates, a sequel to the best-selling, We Don’t Eat Our Classmates, both written and illustrated by Ryan Higgins. Ms. Kati also has posted a video of her two young kids doing the Activity Walk around the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave. It’s a great way to get the kids moving outside, even on a rainy day!

Kid-tested crafts: If you’re looking to keep your kids busy with crafts, check out Facebook page as Ms. Kati regularly posts kid-tested crafts there. Among the most recent crafts are rock painting (add some google eyes for a distinctive touch!), making a paper lantern, or creating an inspiration board.

Boo books: Books reviews by students for Teen Service Learning Hours on our Facebook page. A student named Amy recently reviewed three books: Front Desk and its sequel Three Keys by Kelly Yang and Amina’s Voice by Hena Khan. Another review, by a student named Alex, spotlight a memoir by Jason Schmidt titled A List of Things That Didn’t Kill Me. If your middle school or high school student is a good reader and writer who wants to write book reviews for SSL hours, contact Ms. Kati at leahryan@takomaparkmd.gov.
New Editions

Although our building is closed, we are continuing to add new books to our collection – both in print and online – for all ages. To check out our new digital offerings, head to Hoopla (go to our website, www.takomapark.info/library then click on “e-books” and then “Hoopla”). To see the newest books and audiobooks (and movies, music, and TV shows as well), look for – and click on – the “Advanced Search” button under the search bar. Go down to the “Date Added” category and choose one of the options (last 7 days, last six months, etc.). That will bring up the most recent e-books, which currently include The Deep End, the latest volume in the bestselling Diary of a Wimpy Kid series by Jeff Kinney. If you’re not yet a Hoopla user, here’s how to get started: www.takomapark.info/library/hoopla.html.

As for print books, we’ve got lots of great new adult titles. Look for the list of these books in the sidebar. For a look at our newest kids and teen print books, check out the blog maintained by Karen MacPherson, children’s & teen services coordinator: childrenscommunity.blogspot.com. All of our new print books for adults, kids and teens are available for check-out via our “Books-to-Go” curbside service program. Here is the link for more info: www.takomapark.info/library/curbside.html.

Books-To-Go Basics

Note: This system is a work-in-progress, and if needed, we may make changes.

Special Note: Book-To-Go will not be available on Dec. 24-27 (It will resume Monday, Dec. 28) and Jan. 1-3 (It will resume Monday, Jan. 4).

Residents can place 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.

Before requesting books, check our catalog to see if we have the book and if it is available. If it is checked out, you will see “checked out.” But don’t rely on the list of search results, actually click on the title to open up the catalog record. You will not only get much more information, if you scroll down, you can check on the actual status.

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 (see below).

When you request books, by email or phone, we will need your name plus either your birthday or the last 4 digits of your library card number so we can call up the correct account, and ensure you get the books you order. If this is 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/teen books.

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. We are less busy on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, so those may be the best times to send your email or call.

Call when you get to the library (301-580-0885). We’ll bring out your books and leave them on a table in back of the library for you to pick up.

EMAIL REQUESTS

The email for book requests is librarytakomapark@gmail.com.

• 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, and provide us with the title, and call number (not the barcode). Also, please make sure it is available. 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.

• We will reply when we have fulfilled your request, and let you know when you may pick up your books. Incomplete information will delay the process. Once a request is filled, the email exchange is archived. If you wish to place a second order, please start a fresh email request.

PHONE REQUESTS

To request children’s or teen books, call 301-580-0885. 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).

Online Access to Consumer Reports

Shopping for the holidays? Don’t forget that you have online access to Consumer Reports. Your tax dollars have already paid for this.

• Go to the library’s website www.takomapark.info/library/index.html.

• From there, click on online or digital services.

• Then click on Magazines.

You will see a wide white bar with Magazine Collection, National Geographic, and Print. Beneath that you will see a search window with the green CR Consumer Reports logo. Enter your search, such as “wireless ear buds.” You will be prompted for your Patron ID, which is your library card number. Enter that, and your results will appear. You might prefer the PDF full text over the html because it looks like the magazine page.

Don’t know your library card number? Go to www.tinyurl.com/tkplibrarycards.

Here are your book requests, all lined up in alphabetical order this morning (Nov. 14). It was a record-breaking number of requests. There are 90 bags in this picture.

December 2020
Takoma Park News ▸ Page 11
HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library Annual Holiday Book Sale

The sale is going virtual! Shop our online collection of more 800 new and used books. Search the library catalogue for your favorite authors, titles, and genres. Books are priced to sell at $3 each or 10 for $25. The book sale opened to members on November 27 and will be open non-members on Friday, December 11. Don’t miss out. The best books will go fast. To shop during the members only window (through Thursday, December 10) join the Friends or renew your membership. Information about how to access the book sale was sent via email to members. Proceeds from the sale will support the Library’s ever-popular WinterQuest reading challenge. Pick up of purchases will be at the Takoma Park Maryland Library or at another location in the Takoma Park Community Center.

Hanukkah Highlights

Virtual Hanukkah Candle Lighting
Join Washington Hebrew Congregation clergy online via Zoom each night of Hanukkah at 6:45 p.m. on Zoom to light the candles and say the blessings. For more information, visit www.whctemple.org.

Chanukah Wonderland (Reservations Required)
December 6 - 13, 2020, Simcha Educational Center, 15021 Dufief Mill Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Chanukah Wonderland is a project of Chabad of Upper Montgomery County together with JCrafts. This event is being conducted following all health guidelines. Seating is by family. Each family has their own table and is socially distanced from other families. Masks are required. Two Workshops are available, Olive Oil Pressing and Menorah Making. To attend both workshops please make two reservations. As time slots fill up, we will open up additional time slots. For more information and to make reservations, visit www.ourshul.org.

Community Chanukah Concert with Rick Recht
December 13, 2020, 5:30 p.m. at Gordon Outdoors
Light it up with this interactive musical gathering on the big screen, hosted by nationally renowned Jewish musician, Rick Recht. Hear inspiring stories that shed light on the miracles in our community, sing Jewish songs, and join in blessings led by members of the Baltimore Jewish community. Attend in person for the concert with the Gordon Outdoors and receive a participation kit that will include materials, activities, and ritual items relevant to the theme of the concert. Can’t make it to the big screen? Tune in on a device with the virtual admission option. Part of the Jewish Community Center of Baltimore’s interactive Virtual Community Concert Series. Visit www.jcc.org/schedule/upcoming-events.

Editor’s Note

These event listings are by no means comprehensive. Our goal was to present a small sample of what is available to local families as we go into this very unique holiday season. The City of Takoma Park in no way endorses these events. For questions about scheduling, etc., contact event sponsors directly.

Happy Holidays!
How to Use the Takoma Park Project Directory

What is going on in Takoma Park? The Project Directory can fill you in! The Project Directory lists all major projects currently being worked on or planned citywide and includes need to know information for each one.

takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory

To access the Project Directory from the City of Takoma Park website, on the home page under initiatives, select “Project Directory” as shown at right.

In general each project page contains the following information: project status, lead contact information, timelines, budget/funding source, and links and notes. If residents have questions or need additional information about a specific project, they should contact the project lead person listed.

Below is a partial list of the projects included in the directory.

Projects are then organized by title, classification, target completion date, and ward.

In general each project page contains the following information: project status, lead contact information, timelines, budget/funding source, and links and notes. If residents have questions or need additional information about a specific project, they should contact the project lead person listed.

Below is a partial list of the projects included in the directory.

Projects are then organized by title, classification, target completion date, and ward.

In general each project page contains the following information: project status, lead contact information, timelines, budget/funding source, and links and notes. If residents have questions or need additional information about a specific project, they should contact the project lead person listed.

Below is a partial list of the projects included in the directory.

Projects are then organized by title, classification, target completion date, and ward.

In general each project page contains the following information: project status, lead contact information, timelines, budget/funding source, and links and notes. If residents have questions or need additional information about a specific project, they should contact the project lead person listed.

Below is a partial list of the projects included in the directory.

Projects are then organized by title, classification, target completion date, and ward.

In general each project page contains the following information: project status, lead contact information, timelines, budget/funding source, and links and notes. If residents have questions or need additional information about a specific project, they should contact the project lead person listed.

Below is a partial list of the projects included in the directory.

Projects are then organized by title, classification, target completion date, and ward.

In general each project page contains the following information: project status, lead contact information, timelines, budget/funding source, and links and notes. If residents have questions or need additional information about a specific project, they should contact the project lead person listed.

Below is a partial list of the projects included in the directory.

Projects are then organized by title, classification, target completion date, and ward.

In general each project page contains the following information: project status, lead contact information, timelines, budget/funding source, and links and notes. If residents have questions or need additional information about a specific project, they should contact the project lead person listed.

Below is a partial list of the projects included in the directory.

Projects are then organized by title, classification, target completion date, and ward.

In general each project page contains the following information: project status, lead contact information, timelines, budget/funding source, and links and notes. If residents have questions or need additional information about a specific project, they should contact the project lead person listed.

Below is a partial list of the projects included in the directory.

Projects are then organized by title, classification, target completion date, and ward.

In general each project page contains the following information: project status, lead contact information, timelines, budget/funding source, and links and notes. If residents have questions or need additional information about a specific project, they should contact the project lead person listed.

Below is a partial list of the projects included in the directory.

Projects are then organized by title, classification, target completion date, and ward.

In general each project page contains the following information: project status, lead contact information, timelines, budget/funding source, and links and notes. If residents have questions or need additional information about a specific project, they should contact the project lead person listed.

Below is a partial list of the projects included in the directory.

Projects are then organized by title, classification, target completion date, and ward.

In general each project page contains the following information: project status, lead contact information, timelines, budget/funding source, and links and notes. If residents have questions or need additional information about a specific project, they should contact the project lead person listed.

Below is a partial list of the projects included in the directory.

Projects are then organized by title, classification, target completion date, and ward.

In general each project page contains the following information: project status, lead contact information, timelines, budget/funding source, and links and notes. If residents have questions or need additional information about a specific project, they should contact the project lead person listed.

Below is a partial list of the projects included in the directory.

Projects are then organized by title, classification, target completion date, and ward.

In general each project page contains the following information: project status, lead contact information, timelines, budget/funding source, and links and notes. If residents have questions or need additional information about a specific project, they should contact the project lead person listed.

Below is a partial list of the projects included in the directory.

Projects are then organized by title, classification, target completion date, and ward.

In general each project page contains the following information: project status, lead contact information, timelines, budget/funding source, and links and notes. If residents have questions or need additional information about a specific project, they should contact the project lead person listed.
Holidays 2020: A Different Holiday Season
By Claudine Schweber, co-chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee

Q: Why is this holiday season different from all others?
A: This time, the coronavirus pandemic is part of our lives, an unwanted and unwelcome guest. What does this mean in terms of our usual travel plans and/or getting together with friends and family to share stories and exchange gifts? It means that we need to take new precautions and change or give up some experiences.

Precautions for holiday gatherings or travel during the pandemic
• This is not the season to be traveling or dining with extended family unless everyone has been tested and quarantined prior to the gathering.
• More infections are now associated with family gatherings, not isolated exposures. Asymptomatic individuals can still be highly infectious. Just because they are your family doesn’t mean they can’t be infected. When in doubt, get a test!
• Wearing a mask correctly and maintaining at least a 6-foot distance in social gatherings is still the cornerstone of prevention.
• Outdoor gatherings are safer because of airflow and ventilation. Sitting “outdoors” in a closed-up garage or tent defeats that benefit.

Holiday travel: Taking care of yourself and not putting others at risk
• Consider the health of those with whom you have contact, such as gas station attendants, hotel staff, and store employees in addition to family. Besides wearing a mask and distancing, you may need to quarantine for two weeks.
• Although the risk of COVID exposure while being properly masked on an airplane appears to be relatively low, the multiple exposure of travelers (like waiting at the airport and going through security) make it undesirable.
• Ask yourself: is there any part of the trip where I’m in an enclosed space with other people and cannot socially distance? (Thank you Marthia Pierce, MD, at MidMaryland Internal Medicine for assistance with this section – www.midmarylandinternalmedicine.com)

Editor's note

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.

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.

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:
አማርኛን ያጠራ ድርጉም ያለች። ይህንም ከ>To screenshot on the left, register in the coin superior droit de la page Web et côté de la barre de navigation, puis sélectionnez la langue souhaitée à l’aide du menu déroulant.

French:
Recherchez cette icône à côté des articles du bulletin que vous pouvez lire en ligne dans 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.

TPPD Tips: Holiday Packages

The holiday season is upon us, and it’s an opportune time for burglars and thieves to commit crimes. Typically, there’s a jump in packages stolen from homes during the holidays. During the pandemic, even more people are shopping online and having packages delivered. Solutions to the problem include:

• Tracking your deliveries online
• Reporting missing bundles as soon as possible
• Trying to be home when you’re expecting something valuable to arrive or making arrangements with a neighbor
• Checking for an expected package at the usual time your postal carrier delivers to your home
• Asking a neighbor if they will accept a package for you or asking them to keep an eye out if you know you have a package being delivered.

In addition to these solutions, please consider the following:
• If you are sending something to someone, please let those people know they need to be expecting it.
• If using a shipping company or service, ask about other measures they offer to ensure delivery. The best way to do it is to require a signature, especially if you are sending a high-value item.

A lot of times the thefts are not reported to police because those receiving the packages assume there was a problem with the delivery. We do encourage anybody who is missing a package after it has been verified through the shipping company to contact police and make a report.

Holiday decorating fire safety tips
• Be careful with holiday decorations.
• Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
• Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
• Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
• Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
• Read manufacturer’s instructions for number of light strands to connect.
• Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
• Keep decorations away from windows and doors.
• Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
• Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

Source: National Fire Protection Association

FACTS
• More than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles.
• More than two of every five decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

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.

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:
አማርኛን ያጠራ ድርጉም ያለች። ይህንም ከ>To screenshot on the left, register in the coin superior droit de la page Web et côté de la barre de navigation, puis sélectionnez la langue souhaitée à l’aide du menu déroulant.

French:
Recherchez cette icône à côté des articles du bulletin que vous pouvez lire en ligne dans 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.

Befriend Neighbors

Whether the person is elderly, disabled or scared, this is Takoma Park, where we know our neighbors and care about each other. Check in with them before the disaster and see how prepared they are. (Check out this video www.youtube.com/watch?v=Edh85fFpJ9U).

Reminder: The Takoma Park Police department’s CARE program will call registered residents who are alone or have special needs. Sign up by calling 301-270-1100.

Being prepared prevents being scared. Contact us at 301-889-7126 or tppo@takomaparkmd.gov. Join us once a month for “Dear Beatrice (Prepared) on Talk of Takoma WOWD/LP 94.3FM.

Winter threats—storms, power outages, and illness

If you’re stuck indoors with no/very low power, consider the following:
• Make sure you have battery-powered cell charger, several working flashlights, battery- or solar-powered radio, extra batteries, canned food and pull-up can opener.
• Do not light candles or turn on gas stoves. This can lead to a post-disaster disaster, such as a fire, gas inhalation and worse.
• Have an emergency supply kit on hand with food for three days, safe drinking water, and first aid kit. These supplies will also help if you must evacuate. (See www.ready.gov/build-a-kit).
• Be sure you have prescription medication for at least one week, doctors’ contact list, copies of health insurance information, and critical medical records as well as information about the nearest hospital and emergency room. If traveling, bring same details to new location. Note: Keep paper and electronic copies, share with contacts.
• Maintain a list of emergency contacts with names, relationship, and contact information.
• Make arrangements for your pet in the event that you need to evacuate.

Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of November 23, 2020, 39 people have died in fires, compared to 57 in 2019.

Hot vehicle deaths

As of November 23, 2020 24 children across the country have died in hot vehicles. Keep in mind this can also happen in the cold weather. We must make sure we check the back seat when leaving the vehicle, everyone goes with you. Also don’t forget to lock it.

Precautions for holiday gatherings or travel during the pandemic
• Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
• Keep decorations away from windows and doors.
• Keep candles away from decorations.
• Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
• Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
• Source: National Fire Protection Association
TAKOMA PARK RECREATION CENTER

COMMUNITY ART CONTEST

The City of Takoma Park is rebuilding the recreation center on New Hampshire Avenue and we want your input! Use your creativity and share your ideas with us by participating in our Community Art Contest. Make your own art by hand or submit your work digitally. Flip to the back of this page for instructions.

ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ENTERED INTO A RAFFLE FOR PRIZES & FINAL WINNERS WILL HAVE THEIR ART DISPLAYED IN THE NEW RECREATION CENTER.

For more information visit bitly.com/TkPkArtContest or contact Molly Jamison at 267.983.7006.
**December 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 January issue is Dec. 4, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning Dec. 18. To submit virtual calendar items, email rpenwesditor@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.

---

**PUBLIC DAYS OF NOTE**

Christmas - City Offices Closed
Thursday, Dec. 24 - Friday, Dec. 25
City offices will close at 12:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. All City offices and facilities will be closed Dec. 25, for the Christmas holiday. The Takoma Park Police Department is open 24/7 for emergency services.

New Years - City Offices Closed
Friday, Jan. 1
All City offices and facilities will be closed Jan. 1 for the New Year’s holiday. The Takoma Park Police Department is open 24/7 for emergency services.

**SHARE IDEAS**

**Attend virtual Council meetings!**

**Wednesday, December 2, 7:30 p.m.**
City Council Regular Meeting

**Wednesday, December 9, 7:30 p.m.**
20th District Delegation and City Council Joint Priorities Meeting

**Wednesday, December 9, 9:30 p.m.**
City Council Regular Meeting (Note the late start time.)

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/city-council/meetings-and-documents/city-council-video/)
- on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/user/TakomaParkTV)
- on TV (RCN - Channel 13, HD Channel 1080 Comcast/Xfinity - Channel 13 Verizon Fios - Channel 28) and Comcast/Xfinity HD Channel 997
- on Facebook (@TakomaParkMD/)

**STAY ACTIVE**

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

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

**Washington Revels & Carpe Diem Arts**

**Daily Antidotes of Song**

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 specialty-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; revelsdc.org/2020/daily-song

**Online/ Virtual Daily, noon (ongoing)**

**A Season of Reveling**

Throughout the month of December

Free and ticketed virtual events

The magic of Washington Revels has moved online and, like a band of jolly wassailers, we hope you’ll invite us in to share our fall theme, Hearth & Home, from the comfort of your own home! Our “Season of Reveling” celebrates the closeness of family, the comfort of friends, and the many holidays that mark our journey from autumn to winter. In December, Revels community members will invite us (virtually) to light menorah candles for Hanukkah, to celebrate Nordic musical traditions in a Sanka Lucia festival, and to welcome the Shortest Day during our Winter Solstice Revels. Info: info@revelsdc.org; revelsdc.org/season

**Winter Solstice Revels**

Sunday, December 20, 7 p.m.

Gather the family and join Washington Revels for this “Season of Reveling” highlight! Our Winter Solstice Revels will kindle the spirit of the season. This year the glow may come from our favorite devices rather than the flaming Yule log, but the warmth will be just as real as we celebrate with traditional Revels sing-alongs, performances by our virtual choruses of adults, teens and children, and the cheerful sound of the Washington Revels Brass. Mark Jaster, Sabrina Mandell, and their friends at Happenstance Theater join us for a special 2020 nummers play, and Foggy Bottom Morris brings the haunting Abbots Bromley Horn Dance to life. Revel with us, wherever you may be, as we take joy together on the Shortest Day. Tickets required; post-event access is included with your purchase. Info: info@revelsdc.org; revelsdc.org/season

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

**Takoma Cocoa Crawl**

Saturday, December 12, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Multiple locations around Takoma Park

Grab a Takoma Mug and enjoy cocoa at area restaurants and cafes during the Takoma Cocoa Crawl. Make one stop or many. Adult versions are available too. Get your Takoma mug anytime at Old Takoma Ace Hardware, 7002 Carroll Ave or Artspring, 7002 Carroll Ave. Mugs from previous crawls welcome. Proceeds from mug sales go to Main Street Takoma to fund community initiatives. Stay tuned for updates to make this a COVID-safe event.

**Alternative Gift Fair**

Through December 24

The Alternative Gift Fair is open online. This year you can give holiday gifts that help others less fortunate in your community at the touch of a button. You can connect with representatives from 16 different locally run, small direct-service charities. Gifts are priced from $10 to $100. You can purchase your alternative gifts between now and December 24, 2020 at www.aggw.org. For information or to volunteer, contact Mimi Ilede-Khaisa, fair director, at 301-415-6830 or aggw_inc@yahoo.com

---

**Takoma Park News - December 2020**