



## WHAT'S NEW?

### Important Election Information Vote by Mail

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### Library's Books-to-Go Program

Details, p. 7

### 5 Questions for Jessica Clarke, Deputy City Manager

Details, p. 12

### Trash/recycling collection

Summer Collection Hours:  
With summer on its way and temperatures higher, the City's collection services have shifted to summer hours. Collection for trash, recycling and food waste now begin at 6:30 am. Please put your items out for collection the night before.

# TAKOMA PARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 59, No. 7 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

## Flower business grows hope for good cause

By Sean Gossard

Although smaller stores and shops are beginning to open back up amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the threat of spreading the virus is still very real, and it will take time for local businesses to fully recover from the months-long shutdown.

That's why local flower business Indigro Plant Design ([indigroplants.ecwid.com](http://indigroplants.ecwid.com)) is continuing to raise funds for Takoma Park's Citywide Small Business Mini-Grant Program and the Old Takoma Business Association (OTBA) through sales of specially made arrangements.

Indigro owner Agnes Traynor says she was inspired by No Plan Press founder Jesse Kirsch, who was selling one-of-a-kind prints he designed and made on an antique printing press in Takoma Park to raise funds for small businesses in the area. "When the pandemic started, I was feeling like I needed to help out, and I was brainstorming on how to do that us-



The anthuriums in a planter come with a print from No Plan Press and help Takoma Park businesses.

ing plants," Traynor said. "I saw what No Plan Press was doing, so I reached out to

INDIGRO □ Page 3

### PEOPLE'S PERSPECTIVE

## How the Covid-19 Crisis Helped Me See Another Crisis: Our Dying Trees in Takoma Park

By Mike Tidwell



Somehow it took the COVID-19 crisis to help me see another crisis in our midst: The stunning annihilation of our beautiful trees in Takoma Park. The culprits are invasive vines, especially English Ivy. And the problem is getting worse, but you can help flatten the tree curve.

We've known for years about exotic invasive plants. However, with global warming, a mere problem has become a catastrophe. CO2 is like a fertilizer to noxious vines. Now, imagine an army of hard-hatted lumberjacks descending

DYING TREES □ Page 3



Residential solar roof panels

## Here Comes the Sun: Takoma Park Roofs Get Solar Power

By Bob Guldin

Growing numbers of Takoma Park residents are becoming the owners of their own solar power generators – usually by getting solar panels installed on their roofs. Folks who do that have two main reasons for getting into the electricity generation game.

First, with the prospect of global warming growing every year, putting a zero-emission power plant on your roof is a good way to help keep our planet livable, so you earn points for being a good global citizen. Second, getting your electricity from the sun rather than a corporation can save you thousands of dollars a year on your electric bills.

If that's not enough, the federal and state governments, as well as environmentalist nonprofits, are going all out to make it easy and affordable to become your own solar source. According to Gina Mathias, the sustainability manager for the City of Takoma Park, more than 125 homes in the city currently have solar installations.

Take Fred Pinkney, for example. He had been trying for years to get solar generation on the roof of his house on Willow Ave. But the experts told him his property was too shady. Then, a few years ago, two big old oak trees died (of natural causes) and were removed. Suddenly, his once-shady house was bathed in sunlight, and Pinkney went into action.

He joined a nonprofit solar cooperative (more on that later), which helped him find a contractor with a good track record on solar installation. "They did all the research and all the permitting; I don't have to do anything," Pinkney said. The result is "you can support the lifestyle you have using a fraction of the fossil fuels." Plus, he's saving about \$2,000 a

SOLAR POWER □ Page 3

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

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

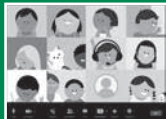


#TogetherTKPK

### Inside



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Route for  
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# DOCKET

## City Council & Committee Calendar

### ADA NOTICE

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

### OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

#### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday, July 8, 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, July 15, 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, July 22, 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, July 29, 7:30 p.m.

*\*After July 29, the City Council will be on recess until September 16.*

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

Meetings will be held remotely for the duration of the public health crisis. For the most current information, visit [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) and click on "Events and Meetings." Information on any meetings taking place will be published there along with information on how the public can observe.

#### BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, July 9, 7: p.m.

#### COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, July 6, 7:15 p.m.  
Monday, August 3, 7:15 p.m.

#### COMPLETE SAFE STREETS COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 9, 7 p.m.

#### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 23, 7 p.m.

#### FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, July 14, 6:30 p.m.

#### NOISE CONTROL BOARD

Tuesday, July 21, 7 p.m.

#### NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 14, 7:30 p.m.

#### POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, July 15, 7 p.m.

#### RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 16, 7 p.m.

#### TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, July 14, 6:45 p.m.

#### YOUTH COUNCIL

Thursday, July 16, 5 p.m.

### 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 day as the presidential election. Watch for important information about voting by mail.

The Nominating Caucus to nominate candidates for mayor and city council will take place on Tuesday, September 15.

## City Council Action

### City Boards, Commissions, and Committees – City Council Review

The City Council set as one of its priorities a review of the existing structure, appointment processes, and practices for Council-appointed committees to increase efficiency and effectiveness, attract new members, and to explore innovative ways to address barriers to greater engagement and participation on committees, especially as it relates to racial equity. The desired outcome of the process is to enable inclusive, engaged, productive, and rewarding committee membership.

In the spring 2019, a Council and staff working group began to examine the range of City committee structures and functions to identify ways to improve functioning and engagement. One of the first steps of the process was to

ask current and past committee members to provide feedback on their experiences serving on a committee through a survey.

The survey provided valuable feedback. On January 15, 2020, the working group presented the results to the City Council. Since that time, the group has met periodically to develop recommendations for consideration by the City Council and the boards, commissions, and committees based on the feedback from the survey as well as Council's input.

Preliminary draft recommendations were presented to the City Council on June 3, 2020. They include suggestions for establishing a new process for selecting and

appointing committee members that would take effect in 2021. In the interim, the City Council is considering delaying making new appointments or filling vacancies until June 2021, unless needed to keep committees functioning. Any reappointments of current members would expire on June 30, 2021.

The preliminary draft recommendations have been shared with committees to begin the committee and public review process.

Visit [takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees](http://takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees) to view the survey results, draft recommendations, and council discussions.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS TO ENABLE THE CITY'S ELECTION TO BE CONDUCTED BY MAIL

Wednesday, July 15, 2020 – 7:30 P.M.

Pursuant to Annotated Code of Maryland, § 4-304 of the Local Government Article and City of Takoma Park Charter § 502(c), the Council of the City of Takoma Park will hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to the City Charter that will enable the City's election to be conducted by mail.

The title of the proposed charter amendment is: **City of Takoma Park, Maryland, Charter Amendment – Enabling the City's Elections to be Conducted by Mail.**

(A) The proposed amendments to Article III of the Charter, §§ 301 and 305, changes the time and/or the description for when newly elected councilmembers and the mayor take office and meet for purposes of organization after the November election in order to facilitate the additional anticipated time required for canvassing and counting of ballots.

(B) The proposed amendments to Article VI of the Charter, §§ 605 and 613, deletes or revises the write-in candidate pre-registration process and changes the 48-hour deadline to certify the election results to the city council.

(C) Additional amendments to the Charter may be proposed for the purposes of further enabling the City's elections to be conducted by mail.

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged. Due to the public health crisis, the hearing will take place remotely. Visit [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) for the full text of the amendments and information on viewing and commenting during the hearing. Comments may also be sent to [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov). For information contact the City Clerk.

## VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

- on the City Council Video Page of the City Website ([takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/meetings-and-documents/city-council-video](http://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 | Comcast/xfinity HD Channel 997)

- on Facebook (@TakomaParkMD)
- on YouTube ([www.youtube.com/user/TakomaParkTV](http://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 to [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov) to be circulated to the Council.

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



## SOLAR POWER

■ From page 1

year on his electric bills.

Some solar adopters are seriously devoted to the cause of alternative energy, and it shows. Sat Jiwan Ikke-Khalsa on Conway Ave. not only has solar-electric panels, but also has a separate roof-top panel to heat water, plus a heat pump and a wood-pellet-burning stove. “We completely stopped using gas, and our electric bill went down 80 percent,” he said with pride.

Ikke-Khalsa is expert enough in alternative energy technology that he has been able to do most of the work on his own. For many homeowners, a better approach might be joining Solar United Neighbors or SUN ([www.solarunitedneighbors.org](http://www.solarunitedneighbors.org)), a nonprofit corporation currently seeking members for a new cooperative for Montgomery County residents.

Emily Stiever, the regional director of Solar United Neighbors, explains that SUN’s model calls for organizing a large number of people (up to 250) from a given area, and the group then meets and democratically researches and chooses which contractor they want to have build their solar arrays. The co-op then becomes a source of expertise for its members in all aspects of building their solar generators, including obtaining financing, getting tax credits, and dealing with zoning and regulations.

Stiever recommends checking [solarunitedneighbors.org/moco](http://solarunitedneighbors.org/moco) to learn about how

the cooperative works and to sign up indicating interest in the group. In addition to solar generation, SUN also supports electric vehicle charging stations.

Despite the COVID pandemic and resulting quarantine, the co-op organizing is still going ahead, though events that would normally be held in person will instead be happening online. In addition, according to Stiever, the installers and construction workers are still at work. The current co-op is accepting members through the end of July.

If you’re interested in solar generation, Stiever points out that it will be advantageous to act in 2020 rather than waiting till next year. That’s because a large federal tax credit will decrease in 2021.

In addition, while installing a rooftop solar array can cost a lot up front, loans are often available. One source of credit is the Montgomery County Green Bank, which offers low-interest loans. It may also be possible to rent rather than buy your solar generation equipment.

Special note: If your home is in one of the city’s historic districts, you will need to get the approval for your solar installation from the county’s Historic Preservation Commission. Because of the support of SUN, a task that might be complicated and difficult for an individual novice becomes much easier. As Stiever said, “You maximize your benefits without having to do a lot of work.”

## DYING TREES

■ From page 1

on our city, chain-sawing up and down our streets, around city hall, behind the food co-op, around our schools. Imagine the sawdust, the whining chainsaw motors, the crack and fall of massive trunks. That is what’s happening in a slower-but-equally-lethal way with invasive vines. And we’re just watching it happen.

Until COVID, I was as guilty as anyone of looking the other way. But now, with



Tidwell cutting vines

my longer morning walks, roaming further from my Willow Avenue home, I’ve suddenly had time to notice. Our trees – everywhere – are being choked to death. The deep green vines growing up the trees on your property and your neighbor’s property are not natural. And there is only one eventual outcome: the death of the tree.

Thankfully, it’s remarkably easy to save these trees. Every morning, I rescue two or three trees using my bare hands and a garden clipper. If the tree is near the street or on public property, I just snip all the vines at chest level and pull the vines down to the ground below me. It’s not a permanent cure, given the vines are still usually spreading elsewhere along the ground. But I’ve killed all the vines choking the tree above me, a solution good for several years. I wear gloves and long sleeves to protect against poison ivy and ticks.

Please, I beg you, do the same where you live and on your walks. Survey your yard and your street. If you see vines, take care of them. Learn more rescue tips at [www.bit.ly/vinesccan](http://www.bit.ly/vinesccan) and [www.treestewards.org/take-ivy-off-trees](http://www.treestewards.org/take-ivy-off-trees).

Small trees take 2–3 minutes to save. Larger trees 5–10 minutes, and you may need a small pruning saw for the wrist-thick vines. I rescued a 150-year-old Tulip Poplar in DC not far from my house in 22 minutes! A tree, alive since nearly the Civil War, 14 feet in circumference, was saved from a grotesque swarm of ivy and oriental bittersweet in less than 30 minutes.

The value of that tree is nearly incalculable. Many people – myself included until recently –

may not understand that:

- Mature trees add as much as \$10,000 to the value of a home
- Shade-giving trees save tons on summer air conditioning
- Trees fight global warming, sequestering roughly one ton of CO<sub>2</sub> over their lifetime.
- Removing medium-to-large trees after they die can cost over \$3,000 per tree.

If you let your trees die, you lose tens of thousands of dollars. Perform a 20-minute rescue, and you save that amount.

And what’s the value of your own life? Those noxious vines weaken a tree’s physical structure, adding weight to the trunk and limbs so that they are more prone to fall on your home during our increasingly extreme storms.

Of course, our city government should continue to do its part protect our tree canopy. The Public Works website has lots of information on tree care, from planting to watering during droughts. But more explicit information is

needed on saving trees from killer vines – and explaining why it matters.

Please join me in my own rescue obsession. Trust me, there are a 100 dying trees within five blocks of your house. Hot spots include the woods behind the Coop; the playground behind Piney Branch Elementary; the boundaries around Takoma Elementary and the middle school. Hotspot streets include “Little Eastern Avenue,” Gude Drive and Richie Avenue. These are just a few examples. Again, learn rescue tips and how to join neighborhood rescue teams at [www.bit.ly/vinesccan](http://www.bit.ly/vinesccan).

Here’s the thing: You have to *see* the dying trees before you can save them. I hope, after reading this perspective, you’ll be sensitized like me. It’s a terrible feeling at first. But then it feels so, so good to save dozens of life-giving trees with your own hands.

*Mike Tidwell is a longtime resident of Takoma Park and director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network. The opinions expressed in this article are his own and do not reflect official City law or policy.*



Downtown Takoma Park

## INDIGRO

■ From page 1

Jesse and asked him to connect me with the folks in the city.”

Traynor next came up with a set of four arrangements. From the \$30 herb and succulent gardens to \$60 packages featuring flowering pink kalanchoe succulents or anthuriums in a gold planter and prints from No Plan Press, these sales are helping to keep Takoma Park businesses that have been affected by COVID-19 afloat as part of the Takoma Park Together campaign.

The Takoma Park Together campaign is helping to support the local community by spreading the word about the city’s many small businesses and raising funds to help keep them running. Traynor said the fundraiser has been going well and that the community’s response has been incredibly positive.



One of the four arrangements for the fundraiser features flowering kalanchoe succulents.

“So far we’ve raised around \$1,000 for local businesses,” Traynor said. “That’s a lot of plants!”

The planters are available through Indigro’s website or at Takoma Beverage Company, 6917 Laurel Ave. You can also follow Indigro on Instagram @indigro-plants.



### THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

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

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

The Newsletter is printed on recycled—





# BUILDING COMMUNITY



## Renting Out a Room to Make Ends Meet

In this difficult time, Takoma Park homeowners may turn to renting out a room in their homes to help make ends meet. If this is an option that you are considering, here are some factors you should consider:

The City calls this housing arrangement, where the owner and a renter share common areas of a dwelling (kitchen, living room, bathroom), Owner

Occupied Group Housing (“OOGH”). This designation applies to both condominiums and single-family homes.

The City requires registration of OOGH. This is a very simple process of completing a registration form and paying a \$50 fee for a three-year registration. City staff will conduct a code-compliance inspection to ensure the property:

1) has the required smoke and carbon monoxide detectors,

2) has proper locks on bedroom and egress doors (there must be a thumb-turn instead of a key on the interior side of the lock), and

3) meets property maintenance standards. This inspection will be repeated every three years, upon renewal of the OOGH registration. Code-compliance on safety and maintenance issues may prevent situations that lead to injury or loss.

Importantly, if you already rent out a room, it is not too late to get registered.



OOGHs are not considered “rental properties,” so there is no state-required lead inspection, and the interaction between owner and tenant is not governed by city code.

If you are considering making a room available as a short-term rental via Airbnb or a similar platform, you will also need to register with Montgomery County as those are regulated

differently. Search for “Short Term Rental” on [montgomerycountymd.gov](http://montgomerycountymd.gov) or call 311 for further instructions. Alternatively, a completely separate apartment in your home, where there is no shared space between owner and tenant, is an accessory dwelling unit (“ADU”) and is considered a rental property. It must be initially approved by the County and, then, licensed by the City. The County has greatly simplified the process for ADU approval, and obtaining a rental license from the City is straightforward. Operating an unlicensed ADU is unlawful and subject to a municipal citation and fine.

Please contact the City’s Licensing Specialist, Patti Mallin at [pattim@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:pattim@takomaparkmd.gov) with your questions about Owner Occupied Group Housing, or search “owner occupied group housing” on [takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov) for the registration form and additional details.

will be rescheduled. Anyone can file a landlord-tenant action in court and start a new case now. Even if the case is filed now, it will not be heard until after July 25, 2020. The court will notify you of the hearing date.

**Evictions**

You cannot be evicted from your home right now. In the State of Maryland, a landlord needs a court order to evict a tenant from a property. If the landlord already had a court order to evict a tenant, that order has also been put on hold, so the eviction is put on hold until further notice. Under the court’s order, the sheriffs across the state are not allowed to evict anyone right now. This can change anytime with a new court order and you may not get notice of the new eviction date.

## Landlord-Tenant Evictions

Maryland’s Chief Judge has ordered that all non-emergency cases in all Maryland courts be stayed during the COVID-emergency until June 5, 2020. In addition, all residential evictions are stayed until further notice until July 25, 2020. This can change anytime with a new court order and you may not get notice of your new eviction date.

### Landlord-Tenant cases, including Failure to Pay Rent

All residential landlord-tenant cases are stayed until July 25, 2020. The District Court is not hearing any Failure to Pay Rent, Breach of Lease, Tenant Holding Over, Rent Escrow and other landlord-tenant cases right now. If you already had a case, that case is on hold. The court will send you a notice when your case



The City of Takoma Park’s Down Payment Assistance Program, called *The Home Stretch*, offers financial assistance to eligible individuals and families seeking to achieve homeownership. \$10,000 is available for down payment assistance per eligible individual or household, on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Eligibility Requirements

- Applicant must be a “first-time homebuyer.” For the purposes of this program, a first-time homebuyer is defined as one who has not owned property in the last five (5) years.
- Applicants must be income eli-

gible. These limits are calculated based on an adjusted percentage of the Area Median Income (AMI) for Montgomery County, as published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

- Applicant must successfully complete a homebuyer education course approved by the City of Takoma Park prior to receiving assistance.
- The home, whether a single family attached or detached home or a condominium, must be located in the City of Takoma Park.
- The home must successfully pass a certified home inspection.

For more information about the program, email [housing@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:housing@takomaparkmd.gov).

## Consider Organic Lawn Care

Organic lawn care isn’t difficult. In fact, it can save time and money, while protecting you, your family, your pets and the environment.

Features of an organic lawn include:

- The turfgrass species is appropriate for your climate and space.
- Healthy soils with high organic matter and microbial activity.
- The grass is mowed high, and all grass clippings are left on the lawn.
- Mowing is done with sharp blades and with an energy efficient, low-emissions mower.
- Fallen leaves are mulched into the lawn (and any excessive leaves are composted).
- No synthetic products are added.
- Watering only occurs during dry spells or extreme stress.
- Turfgrass is allowed to enter dormancy according to the species.

Organic lawn care involves the same amount of work as a chemical fed lawn;

the steps are just different:

- Instead of heading to the store for chemicals, you’ll order and perform a soil test.
- Instead of short, frequent watering, you’ll water less often, but deeper.
- Instead of adding synthetic fertilizer, you’ll add organic amendments only based on the needs of your soil.

There are many reasons to practice organic lawn care, most importantly because it is healthier for your kids, pets, lawn and the environment. In addition, an organic lawn with thick grass, deep roots, healthy soils, and energy-efficient maintenance practices can do a lot to store climate warming carbon, soak up stormwater, and provide the oxygen we breathe. Learn more about the City of Takoma Park’s Safe Grow Act at [takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/neighborhood-services/safegrow](http://takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/neighborhood-services/safegrow).



## Roadside Attractions Concerts Bring Music to the Streets

Melodious voices, the wail of a trumpet, strumming guitars, and staccato drum beats. On Saturday afternoons in Takoma Park, music can be heard lofting through the streets.

After months of silence due to stay-at-home orders, live music has returned to the city in the *Roadside Attractions* series with free concerts at 4 p.m. on most Saturdays in a driveway at the corner of Carroll Avenue and Central Avenue. The rain date is that Sunday at 4 p.m.

The series, which began in May, has featured nine concerts so far with a diverse range of musicians, including singer-songwriters, a jazz quartet, world and folk music, and experimental stylings. Local musician and photographer Bill Crandall founded the series and hosts the concerts in his driveway through a project with his Viaduct arts salon, which provides a creative outlet for artists and a means for channeling positive change.

"The musicians really like being able to play live for people again and not through video or Zoom," said Crandall, who serves on the Takoma Park Arts and Human-

At right: Roadside Attractions Audience  
Below: Arsen Sumbatyan Quartet



Above left: Veronneau Concert  
Above right: Sarah Hughes Concert

arms and plaintive wails that grew fainter and fainter until he was just breathing slowly through the instrument. Then his breathing - and the music - stopped.

"I was happy to play those jazz standards, but this is not what our life is about right now," he told the audience. "Our life right now is about humanity and making everybody feel safe and free and equal."

All *Roadside Attractions* concerts are free and open to anyone. Audience members should wear masks and maintain safe social distancing. You can find more information about the concerts and upcoming *Takoma Park Arts* events at [takomaparkmd.gov/arts](http://takomaparkmd.gov/arts).

Huda Asfour and Kamyar Arsani Concert



Yasmin Williams Concert

ties Commission. "People want to hear live music in some form, so I was looking to create a model for community building around art and artists and the connections they provide."

The *Takoma Park Arts* cultural series organized by the City of Takoma Park is co-sponsoring the *Roadside Attractions* concerts and paying the musicians through taxpayer-supported funding. Faced with many canceled gigs due to coronavirus restrictions, local musicians need a safe performance venue and payment for their important work, Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith said.

"Too often artists and musicians are expected to work for free, and there's no way to create a viable arts community if there isn't financial support," Smith said. "Takoma Park is known as an arts-friendly city, and we need to sustain our creative community through these difficult times."

The arts are even more important during times of crisis by offering solace, building community, and serving as a voice for protest, Smith said.

Professional trumpeter and pianist Arsen Sumbatyan

led his jazz quartet in a recent *Roadside Attractions* concert, his first gig in months because of stay-at-home orders. "I moved here two years ago, and I feel more and more at home every day. There are a lot of musicians and artists here and I feel very welcome," he said. "I want to provide for the community during these very rough times. People have been stuck inside their homes, and they don't have their normal life, and it affects everybody in different ways. As a musician and performer, I still want this connection with an audience."

After playing upbeat jazz for an hour, Sumbatyan closed the concert with his new composition called "I Can't Breathe," which he wrote in response to the brutal killing of George Floyd by police in Minneapolis. The killing of yet another unarmed Black man by police ignited protests around the world along with demands for police reforms to end decades of racist practices.

Sumbatyan played a keyboard with one hand and a flugelhorn with the other. Low repeating notes echoed from the keyboard, creating a sense of menace and melancholy, while the flugelhorn alternated between a call to

**TAKOMA PARK**  
**ARTS**  
**ONLINE**

Arts events at the Takoma Park Community Center have been canceled 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](http://takomaparkmd.gov/arts). The arts keep us connected even when we're apart.



IMPORTANT ELECTION NEWS

City Election Voters Will Vote by Mail in November

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States, the Takoma Park Board of Elections (BOE) has been monitoring the situation and its potential impact for the conduct of the 2020 City election for mayor and city council.

Vote by Mail for Mayor and City Council

At its June meeting, the BOE unanimously decided to recommend that the City move to a vote-by-mail election in November. This recommendation was made to protect election workers and voters. With vote by mail, voters would complete the ballot at home and drop it off at predetermined locations or mail it back to the City. On Election Day, in-person voting would be available on a limited basis to accommodate same day registration and other special circumstances.

The City Council received the recommendation and authorized the BOE to continue planning for voting by mail. This is quite a change from what was envisioned just a few months ago. Details are being worked out and more information will be available for the August issue of the Newsletter and on the City website.

Candidates for City Office

In the meantime, nothing changes for candidates. The Nominating Caucus will take place on September 15 at 7:30 p.m. It may be a virtual/remote meeting. The new campaign finance information and other important information for candidates is available



on the City website. Campaign finance registration is required before any campaign contributions can be accepted or before making any campaign expenditures.

Prepare to Vote: Voter Registration

Voters should prepare for the presidential election and the election for mayor and council by making sure they are registered at their correct address in the City. Remember that 16/17 year old Takoma Park residents, and City residents who are not citizens of the United States, are eligible to be registered and vote for mayor and city council, but not for any other offices.

View election information at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov). Please contact the City Clerk's Office at [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov) with any questions about the election.

NOTICIAS IMPORTANTES DE ELECCIONES

Los Votantes de la Elección de la Ciudad Votarán por Correo en Noviembre

Desde la epidemia de COVID-19 en los Estados Unidos, la Junta Electoral de Takoma Park ha estado monitoreando la situación y su impacto potencial para la realización de las elecciones municipales de 2020 para alcalde y miembros del concejo.

Votación por Correo para Alcalde y Miembros del Concejo

En su reunión de Junio, la Junta Electoral decidió por unanimidad recomendar que la ciudad pasara a una elección por correo en Noviembre. Esta recomendación se hizo para proteger a los trabajadores electorales y a los votantes. Con el voto por correo, los votantes completarían la boleta electoral en casa y la entregarán en lugares predeterminados o enviarán la boleta por correo a la ciudad. El día de las elecciones, el voto en persona estaría disponible de manera limitada para acomodar el registro el mismo día y otras circunstancias especiales. El Concejo recibió la recomendación y autorizó la Junta Electoral a continuar planificando la votación por correo. Esto es un gran cambio con respecto a lo que se imaginó hace unos meses. Se están elaborando detalles y se encontrará más información disponible para la edición de Agosto del boletín y en el sitio web de la ciudad.

Candidatos para la Oficina de la Ciudad

Mientras tanto, nada cambia para los candidatos. La Reunión de Nominaciones tendrá lugar el 15 de Septiembre



a las 7:30 p.m. Puede ser una reunión virtual/remota. La nueva información de financiamiento de campañas y otra información importante para los candidatos está disponible en el sitio web de la ciudad. Se requiere el registro de financiamiento de campaña antes de que se puedan aceptar las contribuciones de la campaña o antes de realizar cualquier gasto de campaña.

Prepararse para Votar: Registro de Votantes

Los votantes deben prepararse para la elección presidencial y la elección para el alcalde y el consejo de Takoma Park asegurándose de que estén registrados con su dirección correcta en la ciudad. Recuerde que los residentes de Takoma Park, de 16/17 años de edad, y los residentes de la ciudad que no son ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos, son elegibles para ser registrados y votar por el alcalde y el consejo de la ciudad, pero no para ninguna otra oficina.

Para más información de las elecciones en [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov). Comuníquese con la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal al [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov) con cualquier pregunta sobre la elección.

Important City Department Phone Numbers

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



# 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:

Nominations 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 of 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](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) for information or call Jessie Carpenter at 301-891-7267.

# ¿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 nominado 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 a 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, 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 quincenalmente).

## 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 Secretaria 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](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) para obtener información o llame a Irma Nalvarte al 301-891-7214.

# Books-to-Go Starts Monday, July 6!

We're delighted to start our curbside service, but please be patient with us as we settle into this new system. Here's how it will work:

- **To check out books, all books on your library card first must be returned!** Note: Once you return your books in the book-drop, they are quarantined for four days, so they will still appear on your account for a few days after you've brought them back.
- **We'll be taking book orders by email (strongly preferred) and phone** (Mondays and Wednesdays, 10-12 and 4-6, and Saturdays, 10-12). Check our website for the email and phone numbers.
- **Before requesting books,** please check our catalog to see if we have the book, and if it is available.
- **Patrons are limited to 5 books per order.**
- **When you request books, by email or phone, we will need your birthday** so we can call up your account, and also to ensure you get the books you ordered.
- **Once we have fetched your books, we'll give you a pick-up window.** Pick-up times will be: Mondays and Wednesdays, 12-2 and 6-8, and Saturdays, 12-3.
- **Call when you get to the Library. We'll bring out your books and leave them on a table for you to pick up.**



Takoma Park Maryland Library



# RECREATION

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

## YOUTH

### DANCE

#### Dance Class

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

### FITNESS



#### Recess

This is an opportunity for youth to virtually participate in exercise and communicate with their peers while remaining inside. Instructor: Charonne Butler  
6–12 years  
Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.  
Free

## ADULT

### HEALTH & 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

Learn simple gentle movements to improve health, mobility, flexibility, 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  
16 and older  
Tuesdays, 7–7:30 p.m.  
Free

#### Meditation, Mudras & Tea

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

#### ReVamp Fit Home Workout

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



#### Spirit Group Fitness

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

#### Total Body Blast

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



## Takoma REConnects during COVID-19

It is a summer unlike any other. Many businesses are closed or just partially open, families are staying indoors, and for the first time in decades, the City of Takoma Park cancelled all summer camps. Unfortunately, after carefully evaluating the health guidelines related to COVID-19 and ongoing discussions with our local officials, the City made the difficult decision to cancel all in-person summer camps for the 2020 summer season.

Now, nearly everyone is stuck at home trying to figure out what's going to happen next during the pandemic. Parents are desperate for answers, while camps are scrambling to come up with a plan to avoid complete shutdown. Though we are disappointed that we're unable to offer our regular camps this year, it's Takoma REConnect to the rescue! We told one of our parents from last year's camp about this new program, and she said, “This sounds great! Since this pandemic, we have been looking for something safe and appealing for our children. This is the answer. Based on past experiences with the Recreation Department, I know that Takoma REConnect will rock!”

We will provide a free virtual summer program opportunity for the residents of Takoma Park. Through this program, registered residents will have the opportunity to connect with staff and friends by participating in a special twist of fun and traditional camp crafts, games and activities. We won't allow youth to be distracted with a computer screen. We will help the kids realize that a tablet/computer is an avenue to similar camp instruction that they would receive at an actual camp.

Our goal is to keep the youth active and Takoma REConnected with a safe and engaging program that is much more than just passive screen time. Gregory Clark, the director of the Takoma Park Recreation Department, believes that Takoma REConnect is a “great



**Tuesdays & Thursdays, July 7 - August 6**

opportunity because of the uncertain times that we're in. This program is a chance for us to deliver services for youth ages 6–12, that is not only fun, but can be safely done at home.”

The program is for children ages 6–12 and will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There are two, for-

ty-five-minute sessions; 6–9 year olds from 10–10:45 a.m. and 10–12 years olds from 1–1:45 p.m. Registration has already opened and space is limited. If you have any questions regarding programs and classes, please contact us at [recreation@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:recreation@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301- 891-7290.



# RECREATION

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

## MULTIMEDIA

### Online Mobile Photography Course

Part of life is all about capturing beautiful fun moments and creating memories. In this class, learn the secret formulas to capturing those moments on your phone. Whether it is portraits, a scenic walk, a street market, a birthday or your pet, we can help you get those timeless moments translated into a picture in the best possible way. In this course you will also learn to take better food photos, group photos, and interior and exterior portraits. You will also be practicing composition, shutter speed, ISO, and aperture adjustment with built-in native apps and manual mode function to get the best photo out of your phone. At the beginning of each class, the instructor will review your photos and provide professional feedback that will help you take better photos. At the end of each class, there will be an assignment to get you practicing the skills taught in class. Instructor: Vinny Mwano

16 and older  
Tuesdays, 5-6 p.m.  
Free

### Digital Marketing

We are all experts of something, and someone is looking to benefit from your expertise. Learn key digital marketing skills that can help you monetize your knowledge and talent. In this course, you will learn how to navigate the digital world to sell

a product or service. There are a lot of online courses that will teach you how to use SEO, content marketing, social media, and Google analytics, but none of them walk you through the proper steps from ideation to your first customer or client. In this course, the instructor walks you through the steps that have helped more than 35 companies (artists, start-ups, education, independent consultants) start monetizing their digital platforms. Each lesson in this course is designed to help you narrow your idea to where you can start monetizing your expertise online. Instructor: Vinny Mwano  
16 and older  
Thursdays, 5-6 p.m.  
Free

55+

## 55+

### FITNESS

**Enhance Your Fitness**  
Start your morning right!  
The class theme is

posture, focusing on core strengthening and utilizing various body strength training exercises. Instructor: Adriene Buist  
55 and older  
Tuesdays, 8:45-9:45 a.m.  
Free

New  
Time!



### "Zumba" Gold

Designed for active older adults who are looking for a modified Zumba class that recreates the original moves you love at a lower intensity, this 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



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



# THE CONGRATULATORY DRIVE

ON JUNE 13 WAS  
A FUN WAY TO  
CELEBRATE THE  
SENIORS OF TKPK!





# LIBRARY



Senora Geiza leading Spanish Circle Time.

Credit: Maurice Belanger



Library Associate Dave Burbank at a SummerQuest launch

Credit: Maurice Belanger

## LIBRARY BRIEFS

- Children's Librarian Kati Nolfi has created 50 craft bags for kids ages 3 up in the Takoma Park community. The bags contain crayons, markers, stickers, a fabric hand puppet to decorate, a blank book, buttons, etc. – all inviting kids to use their creativity and imagination. Housing Director Grayce Wiggins contributed a decorative child's mask to each, and they will be distributed to families in Takoma Park.
- Spanish Circle Time has returned – online! Senora Geiza is now doing a weekly online Zoom Spanish Circle Time at 10:30 a.m. In this 30-minute program, kids and adults can sing songs and do rhymes, dances and movement exercises in Spanish. The Meeting ID is 966-2757-5745 and Meeting Password is 437375.

## CALENDAR

The library is closed, so there are no in-person programs. But we're continuing to offer several great online Library programs each week via Zoom. To participate, go to <https://zoom.us> Click on "Join a Meeting" and put in the Meeting ID (and Meeting Password, if any) listed with each program.

Registration isn't required for these programs, but, if you are registered, we will send reminders as well as notices of any changes or cancellations.

To register, go to [www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryprograms](http://www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryprograms), click on "Our Program Calendar," and scroll down. Please refresh your browser first as our line-up has recently changed, and also please make sure you register for the "Zoom" version of these programs.

**Zoom Circle Time, Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.** Join Ms. Karen for some songs, rhymes, dances and a story. Mr. Gabe joins Ms. Karen on the second Tuesday of each month. Also, please remember to send any upcoming birthdays to Ms. Karen so we can celebrate them. She needs your

child's name, age and birthday; send them to [karenm@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:karenm@takomaparkmd.gov) The Meeting ID for Circle Time is 936-5544-4072 and the Meeting Password is 740663.

**Zoom Comics Jam, Wednesdays, 4-5:30 p.m.** Join Mr. Dave as he reads and shows comics and then takes drawing requests. The Meeting ID is: 734-913-6285 (No Meeting Password required).

**Zoom Spanish Circle Time, Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.** Have fun singing songs and rhymes in Spanish with Senora Geiza! The Meeting ID for Spanish Circle Time is 966-2757-5745 and the Meeting Password is: 437375.

**Zoom Family Yoga Storytime, Fridays at 10:30 a.m.** Led by Ms. Kati, this program includes songs, stories, puppets, and of course, some fun yoga poses. The Meeting ID is: 669-381-6885 and the Meeting Password is: 423812.

**Zoom Scribbler's Cabal, Fridays, 4-5:30 p.m.** Calling all artists! Come draw with Mr. Dave at our informal sketch club, where everyone works on their own art and shares if they are comfortable. The Meeting ID is: 734-913-6285 (No Meeting Password required).



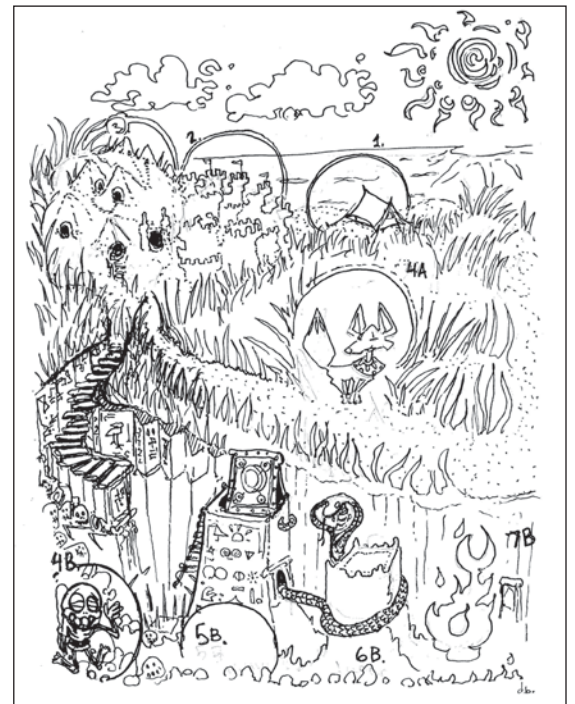
## The Quest Is On

For the first time, our SummerQuest reading program is online, due to the pandemic. As always, Library Associate Dave Burbank has created a great adventure story and gameboard; embedded in the story are 10 reading challenges. The story, game board and SummerQuest directions can be found on the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library website: <https://ftpml.org>.

Because the library is closed, however, readers won't be able to track their progress along the giant gameboard in the Children's Room as usual. Instead, readers can track their progress with special codes through Reader Zone (<https://www.readerzone.com>), which can be downloaded as a free app or accessed on a computer via the Reader Zone website. Readers win a "badge" – an image of one of Dave's many SummerQuest characters – when they complete each challenge. The main code for SummerQuest 2020 is: 1bcb5. Full instructions for using Reader Zone can be found on the Friends of the Library's website: <https://ftpml.org>.

For parents of very young children, there's also a set of special challenges. These challenges include acting out a picture book, doing some cooking together, and reading an alphabet book. Use this code on Reader Zone – 3a110 – to track your family's progress on these Pre-K challenges.

One difference this year in SummerQuest is that all books count, not just those checked out from the library. In addition to print books that you may have at home or have



borrowed from the library, there are many sources for books online. Check out our digital book sources here: [www.takomapark.info/library/ebooks.html](http://www.takomapark.info/library/ebooks.html).

Some of these digital resources require you to use your library card number to set up a personal account (if you haven't already). These include: Hoopla for audiobooks, e-books, and comics, and Freeding for ebooks, including lots of excellent non-fiction. For TumbleBooks you don't need to set up a special account, just use your library card number every time you sign in.



# Changing the Community, One Step at a Time

By Lucy Neher

In January, Takoma Park Safe Routes to School was awarded \$1,500 from America Walks, an organization dedicated to advancing safe, equitable, accessible, and enjoyable places to walk, to construct a half mile equity themed fitness route. The route intersects with the two elementary schools, the middle school, Community Center, Library and Takoma-Piney Branch Local Park. Students, teachers, and parents can begin the route at any point to enjoy a 15-30-minute walk enhanced with fitness activities in the form of stencils on the sidewalk and equity themed prompts. The prompts invite walkers to explore inclusion of individuals of all races, abilities and gender while engaging in bursts of activity.

An interactive web map will be used as the tool kit to help users to think about equity, mindfulness, and diversity. This would be accessed via a QR code on a marker on the ground. Walkers can click on any trail stop marker to pull up prompts for exploration and discussion. Resources for continued learning will be



Sidewalk stencils will be installed along the route.

included, as well. A print version will be available for individuals without digital access.

Last fall, America Walks put out a call for proposals for their Community Change grant, a stipend of \$1,500 for projects related to creating healthy, active, and engaged places to live, work, and play. According to the website, projects, “must demonstrate that they will show increased physical activity and active trans-

portation in a specific community, work to engage people and organizations new to the efforts of walking and walkability, and demonstrate a culture of inclusive health. Projects will create healthy, active, and engaged communities that support walking as transportation, health, and recreation.”

Could the City use \$1,500 to fund “innovative, engaging, and inclusive programs and projects to create change at the

community level”? Yes, but what would this look like? The deadline was drawing near, and still I had no great idea. Leaving the Community Center building on October 23, I had to wait for a long line of students walking past. The teacher at the end of the line filled me in: They were walking for Unity Day. Bingo! I would create a sensory fitness walking route with an equity theme for school groups and families to use to enhance lessons and give students a movement break. Now I could write the proposal.

When the grant proposal for the project was submitted in late 2019, the intention was to offer residents a safe space for discussion and exploration of equity issues. This is more relevant than ever now with social distancing protocols in place due to the coronavirus and recent events elevating our dialogue and actions about racial equity.

Individuals interested in volunteering to help install the stencils (with social distancing protocols in place) should contact Lucy Neher, [lucyn@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:lucyn@takomaparkmd.gov).

## Club flourishes despite COVID

By Taylor Dibbert

Created in 1916, the Takoma Horticultural Club is a historic institution that flies under the radar for many Takoma Park residents. Club President Barbara Henderson said the group is “a silent gem in Takoma.” The club has approximately 500 members, all of whom are gardeners.

Through the club, members are learning about plants, trees and garden news. “It’s a fun little club where you can actually make friends, which I think is really important,” said Henderson.

Henderson, a veterinary nurse who aspires to be a farmer one day, moved to the Washington, D.C. area about ten years ago. She actually visited several gardening clubs before deciding to join the Takoma Horticultural Club. “People at the club were very knowledgeable,” she told me.

What about the pandemic? How does a gardening club operate in the wake of COVID-19?

“We have cancelled all of our meetings; a lot of speakers are older and not comfortable with technology,” said Henderson. “Looking for people [willing] to do Zoom has been tough.”

There’s more. Henderson said that the plant swaps, which are coordinated on the group’s listserv, have changed radically. “There is a new policy: You have to have someone directly contact you about getting a plant, so people are not just stopping by on the chance that a plant may or may not be there.” Additionally, members are scheduling times for plant swaps so that they coincide with other essential duties like going to the grocery store.

And plant sharing is down these days. “Usually there are dozens of postings [on the listserv for plant swaps] a week, and now we only see a handful,” Henderson said. The group is known for being very generous with their plant swaps. A swap could occur when plants are traded, though the term also covers occasions when members just give plants away.

Janet Hostetler, a member for nearly 10 years, said that gardening is “a real outlet right now.” People can use gardening as therapy. She finds it “stress-reduc-



Takoma Horticultural Club President Barbara Henderson

ing” and “important.”

COVID-19 has inevitably changed the way members approach gardening and helping one another. Ordinarily, a lot of members would help each other out with planting. Board members might even come to members’ homes for consultations.

“Now people are very shy about having people come out to do this work, even though landscaping is considered an essential job,” Henderson said. Relatedly, the club’s listserv now includes many more questions about how to plant plants, as opposed to posts about people searching for particular plants.

More broadly, Henderson noted that there’s a greater interest in edible gardening and victory gardens.

“When crises like these happen, people think about expanding into food; moving to edibles is a very natural thing to do.”

Hostetler had been thinking about a better way to do plant swaps even before the pandemic. She came up with the idea to use a Google Form to coordinate swaps. “For me it was so much easier because all the pertinent information was in one place, as opposed to emailing a person several times,” she said. “People seemed to enjoy it as something different.”

She’s already given away hundreds of plants using this new system. Hostetler said plant swaps are an important and welcoming part of the club: “The spirit of giving and exchanging plants is what I like so much.”

Henderson became president of the Takoma Horticultural Club in 2019. She previously served as secretary and vice president. The club holds elections every year and even has a nominating committee. “We try to be as democratic as possible,” Henderson said.

Anyone can join the club; one just needs to live in the area. The cost is \$12 per year. Henderson said that the group’s listserv is super active: “You get a lot of bang for your buck.”

Of the 500 people on the listserv, about 230 people are paid members and about 20 are lifetime members. There are around 100 very active members, who consistently participate in meetings, plant swaps or other events.

Interestingly, the club seems to have experienced demographic changes that are consonant with broader changes within the Takoma Park community. When Henderson joined the club seven years ago, the group was mostly comprised of older women. “There have also been a lot of younger families moving to Takoma, so there are many more members in their 30s and 40s, who are joining the club,” she said. She also mentioned that over the past five years there’s been a resurgence of people interested in house plants. Membership is growing; there’s actually been an uptick in membership since the pandemic began.



# Five Questions for Jessica Clarke, Deputy City Manager

Jessica Clarke began serving the City of Takoma Park as Deputy City Manager in April 2020.

"I started weeks after the Coronavirus pandemic began, and just before the Fiscal 2021 budget reconciliation process," Clarke noted. "The caliber of the team I have joined has been on full display in crafting our pandemic response. Our staff is resilient and has barely missed a beat in the transition to working remotely."

Since beginning her tenure with the City, she has enjoyed working with "a diverse, talented team possessing a wealth of experience in their respective fields who are passionate about all things Takoma Park." For her, the "small and mighty" mural in front of the Recreation Center drawn by Chalk Riot exemplifies the City's leadership team.

"City Manager Ludlow, our Department heads, and I have daily discussions with Mayor Stewart, City Council, State and County leadership, and other municipalities on best strategies to address the public health crisis and protect Takoma Park residents during these challenging times," she observed. "The health protocols we put in place for the safety of Takoma Park employees, our emergency support initiatives for vulnerable businesses and families, and our approach to City operations



Jessica Clarke, Deputy City Manager

will be an important blueprint for the City in future crises."

Prior to joining the Takoma Park team, Clarke worked for the City of Baltimore, Maryland, (her hometown), in various roles, including as a budget and management analyst and director of community engagement for the Baltimore Finance

Department's Bureau of the Budget and Management Research. She then moved to the Department of Housing and Community Development where she served as division manager of demolition, deconstruction, and stabilization operations.

Clarke received a BA in Political Science from Williams College and a Master's in Public Policy from Georgetown University. Between earning these degrees, she was a Peace Corps Agroforestry volunteer in northern Cameroon for two years. She first became interested in public policy after spending two summers teaching reading to kids in East Baltimore through an organization called Superkids Camp.

"The reading skills of most of the campers were far below their grade level," Clarke recalled. "I realized that they would struggle to catch up with their peers for years to come, and that local government could alleviate the many factors working against them and help close the opportunity gap. That experience stayed with me and is part of what inspired me to earn a Master's in Public Policy at the Georgetown McCourt School of Public Policy with a focus on urban policymaking."

Clarke's work with local governments as a Peace Corps volunteer in Northern Cameroon promoting reforestation and as a Mayoral Fellow with the Baltimore

Housing Department analyzing the Vacants to Value program were also strong influences on her decision to pursue graduate studies in public policy. Now she brings all these experiences to Takoma Park where she has found residents are very engaged with their local government.

"Thanks to Zoom, we've had more residents than ever before weigh in for City Council hearings on Wednesdays from the comfort of their couches," she noted. "Through public comments, I'm learning how much Takoma Park residents value responsive government, community engagement, transparency and fiscal responsibility."

"Many of our youngest residents have joined Zoom calls with their parents to advocate for supporting the arts, renovating the library, reprioritizing the budget, or expanding our tree canopy," Clarke continued. "The fact that residents of all ages follow local government affairs so closely is wonderful to see and breathes new energy into our daily work."

*Four years ago, we introduced a series of "quick interviews" in this newsletter to help residents learn a little more about City staff and their neighbors. Here is Clarke's take on our five questions.*

JESSICA CLARKE □ Page 13

## Resources Available During the Coronavirus

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

### Takoma Park Residents in Need of a Mask

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

### Eviction Prevention and Past due Utility Bills

- Montgomery County Office to Prevent Homelessness  
Call: 240-777-0311
- Ministries United Silver Spring Takoma Park (MUSST)  
Email: [musst@verizon.net](mailto:musst@verizon.net)
- Legal Assistance – Maryland Legal Aid, Montgomery County Office  
Call: 240-314-0373
- Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP)  
Home heating, electric utility bills (low-income homeowners, renters, and roomers in Maryland)  
Apply:  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ohep](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ohep)  
Email application to:  
[ohep@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:ohep@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
Call: 240-777-4450

### Foreclosure Assistance

- Free Foreclosure Brief Legal Advice:
- Civil Justice Inc. Helpline  
Call: 443-808-0076

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

### Wills and Powers of Attorney

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

### Maryland Legal Aid

- For wills, advance medical directives, power of attorney, and living wills
- Requirements: 1. Must meet income guidelines for services 2. Must be a U.S. Citizen or permanent resident
- Note: Clients over 60 years of age living in Maryland do not have to meet any income guidelines for services.
- Client Line: 240-314-0373

### Standby Guardianship

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

### Return of Security Deposit

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

### Homeowners at Risk of Tax Sale

Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland  
443-703-3052

### Garnishment of Stimulus Check

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

### Help in Receiving Stimulus Check

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

### Unemployment Insurance Claim Issues

APALRC  
Call: 202-393-3572

### Free Tax Remote Preparation

The IRS and the Maryland Comptroller have extended the tax filing deadline to July 15, 2020.

### Maryland Cash Campaign

[www.cashmd.org](http://www.cashmd.org)

### Catholic Charities

Email for an appointment [ccvirtual-vita@gmail.com](mailto:ccvirtual-vita@gmail.com)

### IRS Disputes and Payment Agreement

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

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

APALRC  
Call: 202-393-3572

### Medical Insurance for the Uninsured

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

### Bankruptcy Assistance (Chapter 7 only)

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

### Auto Fraud and Repossession Abuse

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

### Jobs

- Get Shift Done  
[www.getshiftdone.org/dmv](http://www.getshiftdone.org/dmv)  
Download the app
- Work Source Montgomery  
[worksourcemontgomery.com](http://worksourcemontgomery.com)
- Free One-on-One Virtual Job Coaching  
Worksource Montgomery  
First Tuesday of the Month;  
By appointment only.  
Email: [housing@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:housing@takomaparkmd.gov)  
Call: 301-891-7119



# Oh Rats! Tips for Rodent Control

You may be very careful about how you store your household garbage, but if you let the apples from your tree lie on the ground or feed your dog outside, you are inviting rodents to dinner. Rats and mice have adapted to live in close association with people where they cause tremendous damage and spread disease.

The two most common rodents encountered by citizens of Takoma Park are the Norway rat and the house mouse. Both of these rodents are good jumpers, climbers, swimmers and gnawers. The Norway rat is a burrower, usually nesting in a dirt burrow up to 150 feet from its food supply. The house mouse usually nests indoors within stored materials, but can also live outside, burrowing in areas around fields and lawns. Mice often become a problem where they enter homes in the fall seeking warmth. Mice occupy a small territory, traveling only 10 to 30 feet from their nests for food.

### Checking for rats and mice

The most important signs of rodents are burrows, droppings, tracks, runways, gnawing, urine stains, odor, live or dead rodents, nests and rodent-gnawed food. Rodents are more apt to be seen or heard shortly after dark and in the early morning.

Look for rat burrows, especially around concrete slabs and building

## Eliminating Rodent Food Sources



### DO NOT

- Store garbage outside in plastic bags. Plastic garbage bags are not rodent-proof. Plastic bags should only be used inside garbage cans with tight fitting lids.
- Allow birdseed to accumulate on the ground. Do not leave pet food outside. Store pet food or birdseed in container with a tight fitting lid.
- Leave ripe fruit and vegetables under trees or in the garden to decay.
- Place food scraps in compost piles.
- Remove any piles of debris or building material such as old brick or boards that may provide shelter for rodents.

### DO

- Clear brush, weeds and heavy ground covers, especially around foundations.

foundations, under materials stored outdoors and along fencerows or embankments. A rat's ground burrow will have an irregularly rounded opening, two to three inches in diameter. A mouse's burrow is much smaller.

An active burrow entrance will be hard-packed and clear of leaves and other debris. To find out if the burrow is active, loosely fill the opening of the hole with dirt. If a rat is still present, it will reopen the hole. Remove droppings and check to see if more appear. Do not completely fill or destroy burrows until after the rodents have been exterminated.

Rats cannot be eliminated by blocking their burrows.

Rodents use the same runways to move from place to place. Active runways will be clean and smooth, frequently following along a wall or fence. Along well-used runways, the oils from the rodent's fur leave dirty, greasy rub marks on the areas they frequently touch. Because the incisor teeth of rodents grow continuously, they must gnaw to keep them worn down. You may find gnawed wood or other items.

## Rodent proofing your home

Rodents can enter homes through open or unscreened doors and windows, ventilators, floor drains, cracks and breaks in foundations and holes around electric conduits and pipes where they enter foundations or go through floors and walls. Rats and mice require only a very small opening to gain entry.

- **Close all openings and cover edges** that can be chewed with gnaw-proof materials such as sheet metal, cement or hardware cloth.
- **Make sure doors close tightly with no gaps at the bottom.** All windows, especially basement windows near ground level should have tight fitting screens.
- **Seal openings around pipes or conduits** where pipes enter wood, nail sheet metal around the pipe and where pipes enter masonry, force heavy hardware cloth or steel wool into the opening, and then fill with concrete.

If you have rats nesting on your property, you will need the cooperation of your neighbors since chances are they too are sheltering or inadvertently feeding rats. You can contact a qualified pest control company to handle the rodent control for you or you can do the job yourself with products available at your local hardware store.

## CLUB

■ From page 11

Diversity is another club strength. The club's membership chair is 87. Henderson is 39. They used to have a 12-year-old member. Currently the youngest member is 19. Members come from a range of professions, including real estate, law and much more. "I think the club is pretty reflective of Takoma's diversity," Henderson said. She believes that the people in the club are going to get younger and younger. A sign of the times, the club was initially all-male.

Having been operational for more than

100 years brings benefits. "The rich history of the club is what makes it so unique," said Henderson. "And because of that rich history we have this wealth of information." The Silver Spring Garden Club, their sister club, has been operational for more than 75 years.

Henderson emphasized that the club is about more than fellowship, gardening and trading plants. The club partici-

pates in book donations. The members are active in schools through gardening programs. And they have a community garden that's maintained primarily with native plants. "We're an educational organization, and we're looking to expand in the future," Henderson stated enthusiastically.



# Takoma REConnect

## Virtual Summer Activities

For Takoma Park Youth Ages 6-12

**Tues & Thurs July 7 - Aug 6**

6-9 Yr Old 10-10:45 AM  
10-12 Yr Old 1-1:45 PM

### Summer Time Fun!

Space is limited. Register now!

[takomaparkmd.gov/recreation](http://takomaparkmd.gov/recreation)

**Only a few spots left. If it fills, add your child to the wait list**

## JESSICA CLARKE

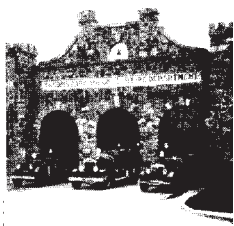
■ From page 12

1. **Favorite Place/Activity in Takoma Park:** I am new to the area, so I am still exploring. On my lunch breaks, I love stopping to smell the roses (literally) in Takoma-Piney Branch Park. I always see families flying kites or picnicking, and lots of kids using the skate park, volleyball court, and basketball court.
2. **Best Thing about Working in Takoma Park:** Serving a community of global citizens
3. **What's on Your Desk Right Now:** Pupusas, the Fiscal 2021 Budget

Book, and Indigro Plant Design succulents to support the "Takoma Park Together" Fundraising Campaign for small businesses

4. **What You Do in Your "Spare Time":** Salsa dancing, running, biking, and taste testing all the best bakeries in the DC metro area
5. **Best Advice You Ever Got (and from who):** The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) has a mentorship program, and I spoke with several veteran city managers to get their advice. They recommended getting out of the office to experience City operations firsthand, and that's what I plan to do!





## THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

### Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as June 30, 2020, 19 people have died in fires compared to 39 in 2019.

### Safety Message

Use caution with candles. Never leave burning candles unattended, and never leave a child in a room alone with a burning candle.

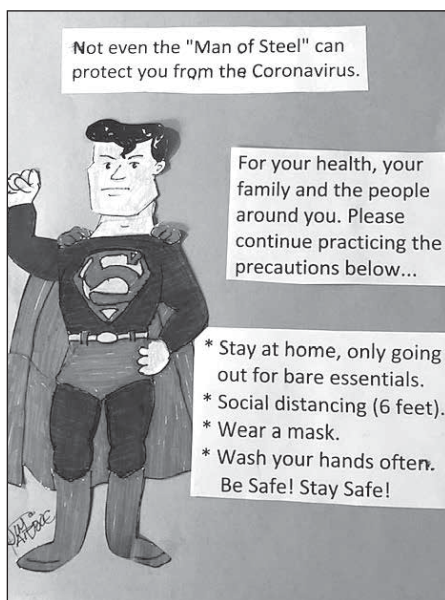
### Hot vehicle safety

Before you leave your vehicle, check the back seat. Everyone goes with you, the children, seniors and

pets. Don't forget to lock your vehicle.

### Reminder

All fireworks are illegal in Montgomery County. Stay safe; don't buy or use them.



## Neighbors Helping Neighbors



By Claudine Schweber, Co-chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee

The Coronavirus appeared in our community and soon the dangers and how we would be affected appeared. We needed to do more than just stay six feet apart. As we reflect upon the 4th of July and the right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," consider the contributions of community members stepping in to help as word spread about the need for masks and food. The neighbors presented here are examples of a much larger community of helpers.

### Peggy, Takoma Park Ward 3

Peggy began by making masks for her family and then for neighbors and others who asked. She posted a notice on the local listserv asking for material and posted a "mask materials drop off here" sign on a collection bin on the front porch. Then, as an active member of Parents of Special Needs Adults (POSNA), she expanded her production to help those families—aided by one woman who cut material for sewing more than 60 masks. Then, she made masks for Takoma Park Co-op staff and people at Victory Towers. Then, she's part of a group preparing special masks for 200 for special needs patients, which require elastic. Peggy has also been shopping for about 5–6 families who cannot go themselves. She gets their order, picks up the food from Snyder's and delivers it to the family.

### Sue Tripp, Takoma Park Ward 1

Sue became involved in making masks when she learned from her daughter-in-law, a neonatal intensive care nurse, that there was a shortage of masks. She learned from neighbors that she could participate in the More Than Masks project organized about three months ago in the neighborhood by Pamela Fields. Sue uses a Deaconess Hospital pattern to make adult and children's masks, which means also getting the correct nose pieces for some masks. Sue volunteers to do 8 or more at a time based on the request from Ms. Fields. Once completed, the masks are left at Ms. Fields' home. So far, More than Masks has donated about 700 masks to places such as Shepard's Table, Casa Ruby, and hospitals. This is particularly remarkable since there are only about 6–7 core mask makers in this group. To help

those needing food and other basics, More Than Masks asks for a donation of \$10 per mask if possible. These funds are used to support organizations such as the Capital Area Food Bank. For more information, contact more4masks@gmail.com.

### Alison Gerber, Potomac, Md.

Alison has been picking up gallons of milk in Frederick and distributing it one day a week at the Takoma Park Food co-op, Essex House, New Hampshire Towers or other senior living homes. She has also picked up prepared, boxed meals at restaurants and delivered these to designated places. How did she learn what to pick up, where, and the delivery location? A friend told her about Small Things Matter (STM) (<https://smallthingsmatter.org>). As a registered dietitian with some free time now, Sue wanted to use her experience to help in this crisis period. The STM organization collaborates with partners in the dairy field and with the Kokua Food program to provide fresh produce and groceries to about 300 families in need ([smallthingsmatter.org/kokuafoods](https://smallthingsmatter.org/kokuafoods)). Alison and other volunteers get a 3-5 day advance notice of pick-up and delivery for the following week, so they can sign up and continue to provide food support for families.

### CHEER Food Distribution, Long Branch Community

In June, with the help of community members, food for families was distributed at the New Hampshire Estates Elementary School or delivered directly to persons who are alone or elderly. This distribution to the Long Branch community was coordinated by Vanessa Pinto at CHEER ([www.communitycheer.org](http://www.communitycheer.org)), food from the Takoma Park Co-op, and Small Things Matter. Conexo Group and other community volunteers helped with the school distribution and the private deliveries.

To be continued next month. Are you involved in providing support? Do you know of others? Please let me know at [tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov); Attn. Claudine, Re: Neighbors.

Contact the Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee at [tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7126. Listen to Bea(trice) Prepared the first Sunday of the month on WOWD/Talk of Takoma, 1 p.m.

## STAY CONNECTED!

The City of Takoma Park strives to keep residents engaged and informed in a variety of ways:

- **Social Media:** Follow Takoma Park  
- Facebook: [Like us](#)  
- Twitter: [@TakomaParkMD](#)
- **NEW! SocialMedia Hub:** Don't like Twitter or Facebook but want to know the latest post or tweets by the City? Visit: [takomaparkmd.gov/about-takoma-park/social-media-hub/](http://takomaparkmd.gov/about-takoma-park/social-media-hub/)
- **Takoma Park Alert:** Public safety notifications - Sign up for Public Safety notifications on Takoma Park Alert: (emails/texts): [takomaparkmd.gov/services/takoma-park-alert](mailto:takomaparkmd.gov/services/takoma-park-alert)



- **Takomaparkmd.gov:** where you can access information on upcoming Council meetings, agendas, City news, and the status of City projects
- **Monthly Newsletter:** both in print and electronic copy
- **NEW! The Takoma Insider:** Receive our weekly eNews right to your email. Sign up: <http://eepurl.com/gg4dMb>
- **My TkPk:** Make a service request or report an issue using the online app. Learn more: [takomaparkmd.gov/services/my-tkpk](http://takomaparkmd.gov/services/my-tkpk)

#OneCommunity - TakomaParkMD.gov



## Editor's note

### English:

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

### French:

Recherchez cette icône à côté des articles du bulletin que

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

### Spanish:

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

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

### Amharic:

ከታች ያለውን ደረሰኛ ይፈልጉ የዚህ መጽሔት አርባ ዓመት የሥራ ስራዎች ልዩ ማንበብ ይቻላል ትርጉሙን በመጠቀም በታሪክ ከተማው ስራዎች በህገ ሃገሪክ ድርጅት ጠቅላይ ስራዎች አገልግሎት ለሰጪው ተባብሮ የሰጠውን የአገልግሎት ደረጃ ለማረጋገጥ የሚጠቀሙበት ልዩ ተቃራኒ ሰነድ ነው።



## 2020Census Can We Count You In?

**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?



United States  
**Census  
2020**



# July 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 August issue is July 10, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning July 31. To submit virtual calendar items, email [tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov).

## Event Cancellations

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

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

For information on Takoma Park Arts online events, visit [takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/arts-and-humanities](http://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/arts-and-humanities).

## SHARE IDEAS

### Attend virtual City Council meetings!

Wednesday, July 8, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 15, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 22, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 29, 7:30 p.m.

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

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

- on the City Council Video Page of the City Website (<https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/meetings-and-documents/city-council-video/>)
- on City TV (RCN - Channel 13, HD Channel 1060 Comcast/xfinity - Channel 13 | Verizon Fios - Channel 28), and

Comcast/Xfinity HD Channel 997

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

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

## SEND KUDOS

#TogetherTKPK

**Showing Thanks to the  
Takoma Park  
Police & Public Works  
Departments**

Draw a picture or send a note of thanks to those working on the front line to keep us safe. We will print it for all staff to see!

Email:  
[PublicWorks@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:PublicWorks@takomaparkmd.gov)  
or  
[Police@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:Police@takomaparkmd.gov)

## SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES



### PLEASE DONATE

#### 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](http://takomaparkmd.gov/news/help-support-takoma-park-businesses).

## STAY ACTIVE

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

### Enhance Your Fitness

Tuesdays, 9 a.m.

This class is designed for older adults looking for a moderate-level class that will help increase heart health, endurance, balance and flexibility.

### Recess Break

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](mailto:charonnebutler@gmail.com).

### ReVamp Fitness

Wednesdays, 10 – 11 a.m.

Geared toward ages 18 and up — get your heart rate up and your stress levels down. For additional information, contact Abel Asafere at [revampfit1@gmail.com](mailto:revampfit1@gmail.com).

### Youth Dance

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](mailto:charonnebutler@gmail.com).

### Zoomba Gold

Fridays, 10 a.m.

Come dance and move from the comfort of your own home.

### Qi Gong

Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

This class offers gentle movements to increase mobility and flexibility.

### Total Body Blast

Saturdays, 9 a.m.

This class provides a mix of calisthenics, balance, strength training and cardiovascular exercise in one dynamic session.

## GOING TO MARKET

### Takoma Park Emergency 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 240-450-2092 or email [educare\\_ss@aol.com](mailto:educare_ss@aol.com).

[www.educare-supportservices.org](http://www.educare-supportservices.org)

### Takoma Park Farmers Market

Sundays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Year-round

Parking lot behind the Shops on Laurel Avenue. Entrance: Next to Suntrust Bank, 6931 Laurel Ave.

Local, seasonal produce, breads, pasture-raised meats, artisan cheese, eggs, baked goods and more from farms located within 125 miles of Takoma Park are offered. 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. senior and immunocompromised shopping only. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. regular shopping hours. You can also pre-order produce by visiting, [takomaparkmarket.com](http://takomaparkmarket.com).

### 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/2wFHq14> to order nonperishable items that will be delivered to TPMS.

### Crossroads Farmers Market

Wednesdays, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Through November 25

(Operating hours and dates open subject change)

Anne Street and University Boulevard East This producers-only farmers market features a range of vendors selling fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs, honey, coffee, flowers and plants, and tasty prepared foods. [takomaparkmarket.com](http://takomaparkmarket.com)

### TPSS Co-op

Online orders only with pick up available 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. in the Junction parking lot. Visit [tpss.coop](http://tpss.coop) or [tpss.coop/shop](http://tpss.coop/shop).