

March
2021

TAKOMA PARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 60, No. 3 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

WHAT'S NEW?

Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Webinar

Thursday, March 25, 7–8 p.m.
Details, page 12

Community Quality of Life Grants Application Closing

Details, page 9

Make a Difference: Plant a Tree

Details, page 4

Trash/Recycling Collection

No changes this month



Look for this Icon throughout this issue

See page 10



Feed the Fridge ribbon cutting last month.

Food security just next door

By Sean Gossard

For those who are food-insecure in Takoma Park and the surrounding areas, there is now a way to get healthy meals free of charge and directly from a community refrigerator.

Started this fall by restaurateur Mark

Bucher, the owner of the D.C.-area steakhouse Medium Rare, Feed the Fridge is meant to make sure everyone has access to a healthy meal while also helping area restaurants hit hard by the pandemic. The latest spot for Feed

FOOD SECURITY □ Page 3



Hello and Goodbye

Reflections on more than three decades as director of the Takoma Park, MD Library

By Ellen Robbins

Each and every accomplishment, program, or innovation that has been part of the library's story during my time as director has been the product of many engaged, thoughtful, and creative staff. So what I can best take personal credit for is the willingness to recognize and encourage the talents of many and to applaud their successes.

In that spirit, here are some of



Ellen Robbins

LIBRARY □ Page 9

Information and Resources: Covid19
takomaparkmd.gov

Questions, Comments and Suggestions
askus@takomaparkmd.gov

#TogetherTKPK



Bringing Businesses a Little Green

New grants are available for businesses in Takoma Park. Sustainability Grants for Businesses can be used to help businesses increase their environmental sustainability. Businesses may use the grants to make a variety of improvements, including, but not limited to:

- Equipment replacements with EnergyStar Certified equipment, including high-efficiency heating and cooling (HVAC), heat pump water heaters, dishwashers, lighting, clothes washers and electric dryers, and refrigeration.
- Improvements to the building envelope that increase energy efficiency such as insulation, air sealing, and replacement of inefficient windows.
- Installation of solar panels
- Installation of electric vehicle chargers

Businesses can apply for up to \$9,500. The deadline to apply is Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 11:59 pm. All applications will be reviewed on March 12, 2021. If any funding remains after the first review, applications will then be considered on a first come first served basis until funding is exhausted, or June 30, 2021, whichever comes first.

All businesses with a physical retail or office space in Takoma Park are eligible to apply. Grantees must buy 100% green electricity for a minimum of 24 months after grant award. If a rate comparable to Pepco's standard offer is not available, additional funding to offset the difference may be added to the grant award. All funded projects must be completed by June 30, 2021. Selected grantees may choose to be reimbursed directly after submitting receipts and proof

GREEN □ Page 3

Mayor & Council
7500 Maple Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912

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Talking Poetry in
Takoma Park
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Getting to Know
Carla Perlo
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Designing New
Ave Bikeways
Page 11

DOCKET

Official City Government Meetings

REMOTE/VIRTUAL MEETINGS CONTINUE

We expect that meetings will continue to take place in a remote/virtual format for the next few months. For the most current information, visit www.takomaparkmd.gov and click on "Events and Meetings." Information on any meetings taking place will be published there along with information on how the public can observe.

COMMENTING AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Individuals interested in commenting live during City Council meetings must sign up by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. The link to sign up will be published on the calendar and on the City Council agenda page. Written comments sent by email or U.S. mail will be shared with the full Council.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS IN MARCH

Wednesday, March 3, 7:30 p.m., City Council Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 10, 7:30 p.m., City Council Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 17, 7:30 p.m., City Council Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 23, 7:30 p.m., City Council Regular Meeting

The City Council will not meet on Wednesday, March 31.

CITY BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 23, 7 p.m.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, March 11, 7 p.m.

COMPLETE SAFE STREETS COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 11, 7 p.m.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 25, 7 p.m.

FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, March 9, 6:30 p.m.

GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 3, 6:30 p.m.

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 9, 7:30 p.m.

PARKING MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

Thursday, March 4, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 18, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 1, 7:30 p.m.

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, March 15, 7 p.m.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 18, 7 p.m.

TREE COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, March 9, 6:30 p.m.

YOUTH COUNCIL

Sunday, March 14, 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 28, 3:30 p.m.

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

ADA NOTICE

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities 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 or 301-891-7267 at least 48 hours in advance.

City Council Action

CITY COUNCIL ACTION

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

On **January 21, 2021**, the Council adopted several procurement ordinances. **Ordinance 2021-2** authorized the purchase of a Ford F-250 replacement pickup truck for food waste collection. The approved purchase amount was \$32,289 from Heinrich Fleet Services. A purchase of mobile computers for Police Department vehicles was approved by **Ordinance 2021-3**. The purchase amount was \$50,217 from Front Line Mobile Tech. **Ordinance 2021-4** authorized a contract with Useful Corporation for public computers, software and support for the Computer Learning Center, Senior Room, Library, or other alternate locations. The approved amount for a three-year contract was \$24,852. **Ordinance 2021-5** approved purchase and outfitting of four replacement police vehicles from Apple Ford at the cost of \$231,956. Also, on January 21, the City Council ratified a collective bargaining agreement between

AFSCME and the City of Takoma Park by adoption of **Resolution 2021-1**. **Resolution 2021-2** approved FY 2021 wage adjustments for employees not otherwise provided for by previous resolutions.

At its regular meeting on **January 27, 2021**, the City Council adopted **Ordinance 2021-1**, amending the Police Employees' Retirement Plan to add a deferred retirement option program and to permit, upon retirement, up to three years of prior military service as creditable service. (First reading was held on January 21.)

At the City Council meeting on **February 3, 2021**, the Council approved FY 2021 Budget Amendment No. 3 by **Ordinance 2021-6**. (First reading was held on January 27.)

On **February 17, 2021**, the City Council amended Ordinance 2021-5 by adoption of **Ordinance 2021-7**. The ordinance clarified that the Police Department vehicle purchase from Apple Ford was in the amount of \$168,000 and the outfitting of the vehicles was from Front Line Mobile Tech in the amount of \$63,956. **Resolution 2021-3** was also adopted. The resolution established

February 23 as Lee Jordan Day in Takoma Park. Mr. Jordan was one of the most influential residents in Takoma Park's history. The recognition recognizes his life's work and the impact he had on the community.

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE ENCORE FILM SCREENINGS

The Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee has arranged for three encore screenings of the film *The Nuns, The Priests, and The Bombs* on City TV, YouTube, and Facebook. The additional viewing opportunities will be:

March 7, 4 p.m.

March 9, 4 p.m.

March 11, 7 p.m.

The screenings will include the recorded post film discussion with filmmaker Helen Young and activist Mark Colvill. For additional information, contact Jessie Carpenter, jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov.

VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

- on the City Council Video Page of the City Website (<https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/meetings-and-documents/city-council-video>)
- on City TV (RCN - Channel 13, HD Channel 1060 Comcast/xfinity - Channel 13 Verizon Fios - Channel 28)
- on Facebook (@TakomaParkMD/)
- on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/user/TakomaParkTV>)

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

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

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There is no registration or ID required to get a meal, and the refrigerators are cleaned and stocked daily. “They’re not checking in with anybody; there isn’t any list,” Bucher told Dcist.com in December. “It’s dignified.”

The plan is to keep on growing. According to Feed the Fridge's website, "by the end of 2021, our goal is to deliver over 500,000 free nutritious meals prepared by local restaurants." The meals feature a mix of carbs, protein and vegetables and are from restaurants including Medium Rare, Cava, and Duke's Grocery, with more expected to join the initiative.

The restaurants that are participating get paid \$6 per meal through Bucher's nonprofit We Care, according to DCist. Food insecurity has been a growing problem during the pandemic, with the rate



There are nearly 20 Feed the Fridge locations around D.C., including this one at the Takoma Park Recreation Center.

of food insecurity in Montgomery County predicted to jump from 8 percent in 2018 to 13 percent this year, according to the nonprofit Feeding America.

“COVID-19 has impacted many in our community, in particular exacerbating issues of food insecurity,” Stewart said. “We are grateful to all the community members, nonprofits, and City staff who have stepped in to help those most in need.”

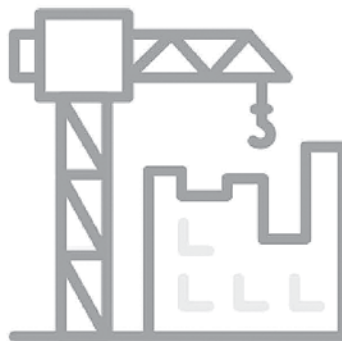
To help by donating to Feed the Fridge, visit feedthefridge.org. According to the site, \$20 buys a few meals and \$50 can buy seven meals.

The Takoma Park Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue will be redeveloped into a new, state-of-the-art, community resource, and we need your input! The City of Takoma Park is conducting a community survey to understand your needs and priorities. Participants will have a chance to win one of several gift cards from local, Takoma Park businesses!

Fill out the survey online or drop them off at the locations below (paper copies available on-site). The deadline to complete the survey is March 31, 2021.

Drop-off Locations

- **Takoma Park Police Department**
 - 7500 Maple Ave
- **Hampshire Tower Apartments**
 - 7401 New Hampshire Ave
- **Takoma Overlook**
 - 7333 New Hampshire Ave



Learn more by scanning the QR code or by visiting bit.ly/TkPkRecreationCenterSurvey. Questions? Email us at housing@takomaparkmd.gov or call/text us at 240-414-8177.



Engage Takoma Park is a pilot program of the City of Takoma Park.

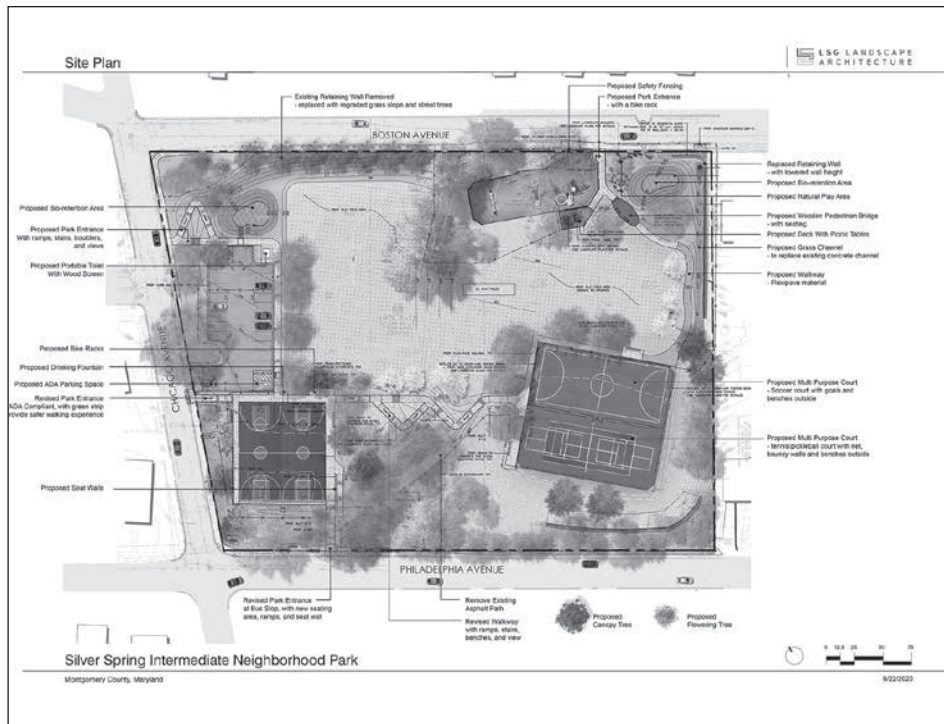
Park renovations in progress

Montgomery County's Montgomery Parks department, spearheaded by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), is currently working on renovating three of our local parks: Hillwood Manor Neighborhood Park, Sligo Creek Stream Valley Park (Kennebec), and Silver Spring Intermediate Neighborhood Park.

The Hillwood Manor Neighborhood Park renovation project will be bringing in new playground equipment to replace the older structures. In June 2020, residents were asked to comment on the preliminary plan for equipment upgrades. A new forum will become available for residents to view and comment on the redeveloped project plan, which includes feedback from residents who participated last June.

The Sligo Creek Stream Valley Park (Kennebec) renovation project will also focus on replacing playground equipment that were last installed in 1986, as well as improving accessibility by adjusting the trailways and relocating the parking lot. The proposed goal is to increase connectivity and visibility for people using the playground, trails and the area.

Similarly, the Silver Spring Intermediate Neighborhood Park renovation project (at Philadelphia and Chicago Avenues) will be bringing in new park amenities, improving existing fields, and redeveloping existing entryways. The changes featured in the \$1.6 million county-funded project will work to enhance ADA accessibility and improve stormwater drainage

PARK RENOVATIONS ☐ Page 9

Silver Spring Intermediate Park's current design: This design is not yet finalized and layout/details will continue to be updated throughout the design process.



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Apryl Motley
Assistant: Sean Gossard
www.takomaparkmd.gov
Vol. 60, No. 3

The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 12 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, takomaparkmd.gov.


Letters to the editor, reports by community groups, calendar items and other submissions will be considered for publication; send to tpnewseditor@tpnews.com

takomaparkmd.gov or Newsletter, City of
Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park,
Md. 20912.

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

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

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

The Newsletter is printed on recycled— content paper.

GREEN

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of project completion, or grantees may choose for the City to pay their chosen contractor. Additionally, grantees will be required to benchmark using EnergyStar Portfolio Manager and report energy usage or other metric to measure the impact of the grant.

The City's investment to provide sus-

sustainability grants for businesses supports its goal to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035. About half of emissions in Takoma Park come from existing buildings. Helping businesses improve their energy efficiency and sustainability is just one way the City is working to reach its goal. Grants and rebates are also available for residents. To learn more and apply for a sustainability grant, visit takomaparkmd.gov/sustainability.



BUILDING COMMUNITY



Map depicts extent of project which will run along Maple Avenue from Sligo Creek Parkway to the DC border.

Maple Avenue Complete Street Redesign

In May 2020, the City was awarded a Metropolitan-Washington Council of Governments Technical Assistance Grant for \$50,000 to develop an initial design concept for a Complete Streets redesign of Maple Avenue from the Sligo Creek Trail to the DC Line. Toole Design Group was selected as the contractor for this project.

The goal of the Maple Avenue Complete Street project is to strengthen transportation connections in the City of Takoma Park by redesigning Maple Avenue to prioritize pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users to provide safer, more convenient, and more comfortable travel for all roadway users.

On January 26 and 27, 2021, the City of Takoma Park and Toole Design

Group held focus group meetings on the Maple Avenue Complete Street Redesign project. Residents were asked to take a look at the Maple Avenue corridor and give input about their observations of how the street functions now and what might be possible in terms of multimodal streetscape enhancements and traffic calming measures.

Design work is expected to be completed by June 30, 2021. Upcoming community meetings will take place this month. For more information and updates, check the City's website: takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/planning-and-community-development/maple-avenue-complete-streets-redesign.

Make a Difference – Plant a Tree

The City of Takoma Park is excited to once again offer discounted tree plantings to property owners this spring.

Trees offer numerous benefits to the public at large, including cooling the city, intercepting stormwater, supporting a robust local ecology, and providing for aesthetic improvement of our urban landscape. With a changing climate and increasing environmental stressors challenging our mature tree populations, planting new young trees is more important than ever. You can be a part of this important cause by having a tree planted in your yard and we are here to help you make that happen. Here is a brief run-down of how the program works and how you will benefit:

- For the first tree, half of the cost is covered by the city. The cost to you for the first tree is \$130.
- For additional trees, you get the city's reduced 'bulk-buy' pricing. The cost to you for additional trees is \$260 per tree.
- The Urban Forest Manager will coordinate the entire ordering and planting processes to ensure a smooth and high-quality tree planting, saving you

the time and effort.

- You get a minimum 1.5" caliper tree (6–10 feet tall) planted with a ring of mulch and a deer guard.

The tree species available through the program are:

- Blackgum
- Southern Magnolia
- Sycamore
- River birch
- Swamp White Oak
- American Linden
- Bald Cypress

A fillable order form can be found on the City's website (takomaparkmd.gov/government/public-works/tree-care-and-resources). A paper copy of the order form can be obtained at the Public Works building at 31 Oswego Avenue. Payments can be made by check. Order forms must be mailed or dropped off at the Public Works building by March 26 to be included in the spring planting. Plantings will occur sometime in mid to late April. The Urban Forest Manager will be in touch with you throughout the process to coordinate the planting. We look forward to working with you to restore the urban forest canopy of Takoma Park and beautify your yard.

Rodent Control

Rats and mice have no respect for economic level or status. 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

Eliminating 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.
- DO NOT 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.
- DO NOT leave ripe fruit and vegetables under trees or in the garden to decay.
- DO NOT place food scraps in compost piles.
- DO 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.

shortly after dark and in the early morning.

Look for rat burrows, especially around concrete slabs and building foundations, under materials stored outdoors and along fencerows or embankments. A rat's

Talking About Poetry in Takoma Park

A Conversation with Poet Jona Colson

Jona Colson teaches in the English Language for Academic Purposes Department at Montgomery College's Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus and is the author of a poetry collection titled *Said Through Glass*. He served as poetry editor for *This is What America Looks Like*, an anthology of poetry and fiction from 100 authors in the D.C. area.

The City of Takoma Park's *Takoma Park Arts* cultural series will host an online poetry reading with eight poets featured in the book at 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 18 on Zoom. You can find the details and sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts. Takoma Park Poet Laureate Kathleen O'Toole spoke with Colson about his life and work.



Jona Colson

O'Toole: Tell us about your book *Said Through Glass*.

Colson: This book was 20 years in the making. I've always been fascinated with writers who "extend the metaphor;" yet the metaphor still works because it's tethered to reality. I want to write on that path, to take images that are dreamlike and to stretch them as far as I can, just to the other side of reality but still make it believable.

I studied Spanish in college and was influenced by the magical realists. I often get asked at readings about the personal elements in my writing. Through imagery and language, I work to create something that allows me to bear witness to reality but from a distance. Our job is to make experience universal with language and art.

O'Toole: What do you enjoy about teaching at Montgomery College?

Colson: All my students are non-native speakers, and they are from all over the

world, including West African, Ethiopian, Bangladeshi, and Latinx students. I love my students. It's been a real joy to teach here.

O'Toole: Let's talk about the anthology *This Is What America Looks Like* and the *Takoma Park Arts* online poetry reading on March 18.

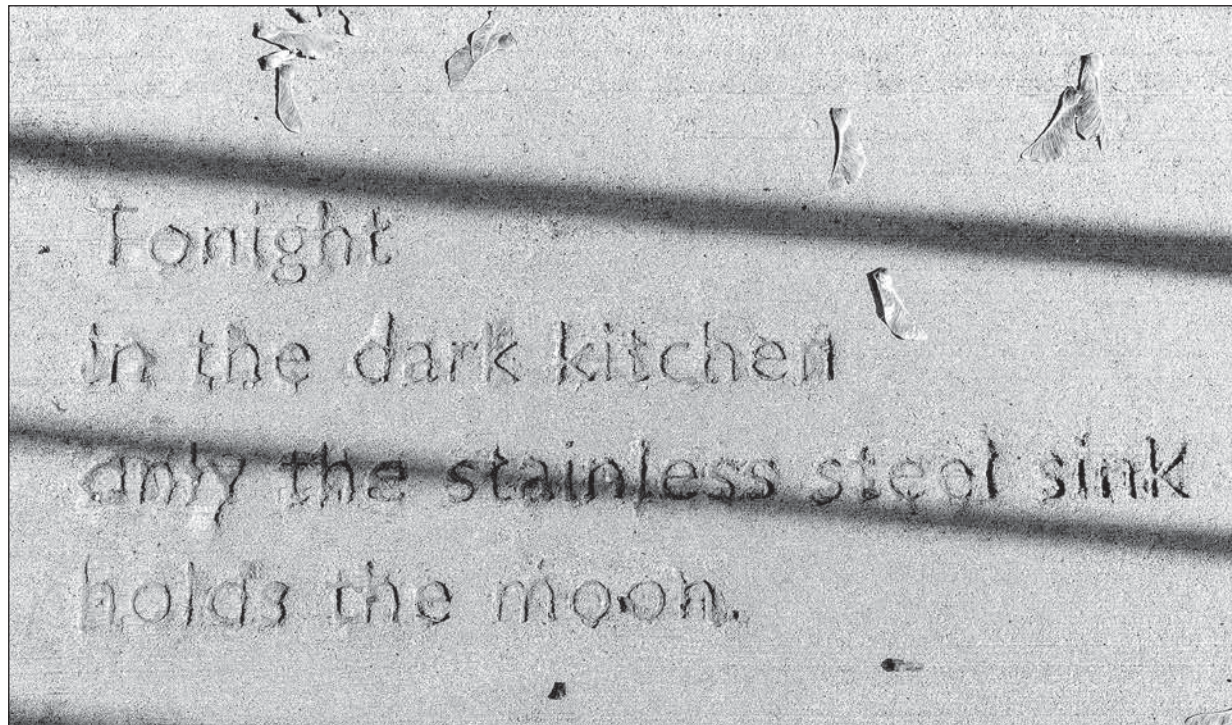
Colson: Washington Writers Publishing House published my first book, and I offered to serve as poetry editor for this anthology. It was an open call, and we think it represents the American narrative, where we are right now with the pandemic, Black Lives Matter movement, and so many other pressing issues. We wanted to include established writers and totally new voices. I was struck by so many poets' and writers' ability to write about these moments that were still unfolding with such power and depth.

Poetry from Young and Old Takes Concrete Form

Takoma Park Poet Laureate Kathleen O'Toole has led poetry workshops with students at Piney Branch Elementary School and seniors through the City of Takoma Park's seniors program. The workshops helped promote the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Division's sidewalk poetry project where more than 100 local adults and children have submitted original poems with a chance to win a \$100 award and have their poem stamped into a local sidewalk. O'Toole is leading a committee that will select the winners. She spoke with Arts and Humanities Division Coordinator Brendan Smith about the project.

How did your workshops go with the seniors and Piney Branch students? What's it like working with people from opposite ends of the age spectrum?

O'Toole: In each workshop we were focused on short poems (mostly haiku), and the seniors have more memories to draw from but also the challenge of shifting from the adult world of abstractions to focus on the freshness of immediate images and experiences. Working with young kids is fascinating. They have so



Sidewalk poem in St. Paul, Minn.

Credit: Thaiphay Phan Quang

much imagination and eagerness to share their experiences that it's tough to keep up with their questions and energy on Zoom.

What excites you about the sidewalk poetry contest?

O'Toole: The simplicity of writing something in five lines or less creates an

opportunity for people who don't consider themselves poets to try it. It's not daunting, and the opportunity to be recognized and have your words immortalized in a concrete sidewalk is enticing.

What are the challenges and rewards of writing very short poems or haiku?

O'Toole: For me, the rewards of haiku

in particular involve capturing fleeting moments and experiences that might otherwise be lost. We move so fast and have so much information flying around us; it's rewarding to notice the small accidents and juxtapositions: Birds (and squirrels) at the feeder in snow, sparrow chatter and car alarms, and seeing both magnolia buds and icicles during a walk is life-giving during these sobering times.

What is the poetry community like in the D.C. area as far as diversity and range of styles?

O'Toole: It's vibrant, diverse, and growing. Some of the same young people who've made their voices heard politically are also involved in poetry. We have everyone from academic poets to seasoned, widely published poets to spoken word poets of just about every age and background. Poetry readings of traditional and experimental styles are all over Zoom. Look no farther than the enthusiastic response to Amanda Gorman's inauguration poem, how her youth and embodied language put a fresh face on poetry for all of us.

RECREATION

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

VIRTUAL CLASSES

YOUTH

ART

Be Creative Arts & Crafts

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

6–12 years
Saturdays, 12–12:30 p.m.
Starting April 3
Free

See article on page 7 to learn more about instructor Carla!

Let's Grow: Gardening & Garden Art

Develop your green thumb by learning about plants, starting your own container garden, germinating plants from seeds, creating new plants from cuttings, and creating art projects with themes from the garden. Learn to make your own containers and garden tools from recycled materials. All necessary supplies (pots, soil, seeds, and cuttings) will be provided by the instructor. Instructor: Carla Perlo

6–14 years
Saturdays, 1–1:30 p.m.
Starting April 3
Free

DANCE

Youth Dance

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

5–12 years
Sundays, 11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Through March 21
Free

TEENS

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Entrepreneurship for Teens 101

This virtual class engages teenagers, teaches them to follow their passions, and inspires teens to create their own business. George Washington University professor Ellen M. Zavian leads students in using their new entrepreneurial skills to work in teams to develop a venture idea that creates economic and social value. Registration is required for this class; once signed up, you will receive a link for access to the virtual class. Instructor: Ellen M. Zavian

11–14 years
6 Week Session
Wednesdays, 4–5 p.m.
Through March 31
Free

ESPORTS



FIFA 21 Tournament (Playstation & Xbox)

This free virtual tournament places the best 16 players against each other for a single game elimination tournament (separate tournaments for Playstation & Xbox). Requirements: Playstation or Xbox Console, FIFA 21 Game, email address, internet connection. For more information, contact Javonte McDonald at javontem@takomaparkmd.gov.



SO THAT ALL TAKOMA PARK RESIDENTS CAN PLAY... SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR RECREATION PROGRAMMING

Recreation Department scholarships are available for Takoma Park residents in need. Scholarships can be used for activities, camps and childcare through the City of Takoma Park Recreation Department and is valid for the calendar year. Apply now!

For more information visit takomaparkmd.gov/recreation

Las becas del Departamento de Recreación están disponibles para los residentes de Takoma Park que las necesiten. Las becas se pueden utilizar para actividades, campamentos y cuidado de niños a través del Departamento de Recreación de la Ciudad de Takoma Park y son válidas para el año calendario. ¡Aplique ya!

Para obtener más información, visite takomaparkmd.gov/recreation

የመዝናኛ ዲፓርትመንት በኮሌሊን ለማድልግ የታከማ ፓርክ ነዋሪዎች ይገኛሉ። በታከማ ፓርክ መዝናኛ ዲፓርትመንት በኩል ለከገውኖች፣ ለካምፕና ለክልሎች አገልግሎት ለሚሰጡ ለሀገር የክልል ዓመት የሚሰጡ ይሆናል። አሁን ያመልከቱ!

ለበለጠ መረጃ takomaparkmd.gov/recreation ን ይጎብኙ

Des bourses du département des loisirs sont disponibles pour les résidents de Takoma Park dans le besoin. Les bourses peuvent être utilisées pour des activités, des camps et la garde d'enfants par l'intermédiaire du département des loisirs de la ville de Takoma Park et sont valables pour l'année civile. Postulez dès maintenant!

Pour plus d'informations, visitez le site takomaparkmd.gov/recreation



SPECIAL EVENTS



11–15 years
2 Week Sessions
PLAYSTATION
Tuesdays, 5–6 p.m.
March 16–March 30
XBOX
Thursdays, 5–6 p.m.
March 11–March 25
Free

FITNESS

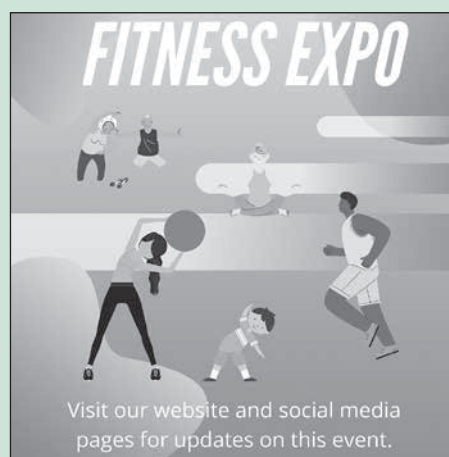
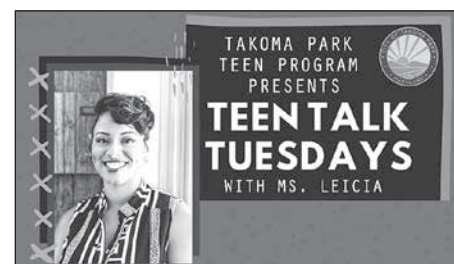
Commit 2 B Fit

Get your yoga mat and water bottles and join us virtually on Saturday mornings for a fun and energized session to work out and get fit. Limited spaces available; registration required. This is a virtual class. For more information, contact Leicia Monfort at leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov. Grades 6–12
Saturdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Through March 27
Free

SOCIAL

Friday Night Lights

Join us every second Friday of the month for a fun-filled night. Each month we will host a different event to include movie watch parties, DJ dance offs, Minute to Win It games, trivia, and game nights to include a few. Prizes will be given, and you can enter to win a family pizza night on us! This is a virtual program. For more information, please contact Leicia Monfort at leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov. Grades 6–12
Ongoing
2nd Fridays beginning April 9
5–6:30 p.m.
Free



Teen Talk Tuesdays

Join Ms. Leicia for Teen Talk Tuesdays. Grab your seats, and we will bring the “tea.” Let’s talk about fashion, fads, questions, advice, and current events, etc. You name it! Some weeks we will have experts or special guests join in on the conversations. This is a virtual session. For more information, contact Leicia Monfort at leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov. Grades 6–12
Tuesdays, 4–5 p.m.
Through March 30
Free

ADULT

ART

Pandamit Painting

Get instruction in how to paint with acrylics with topics such as values, color mixing, complimentary colors, and mixed media. The purpose is also to support and assist each other in this time of restrictions and to provide a fun and informative activity. The students are responsible for their own materials, a list of suggested supplies will be given to students. Instructor: Alice Sims
16 and older
Saturdays, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.
Starting April 3
Free

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Writing Life Stories

Are you at home thinking about life? This is a terrific time to write about your life. Whether you have been writing for years or are a beginner, this class is for you. We help each other with constructive feedback and complete optional homework. We will read the book, *Writing the Memoir* by Judith Barrington. Bring a notebook and pen to each session. Instructor: Barbara Rosenblatt
16 and older
Wednesdays 7–8 p.m.
Free

FITNESS

Foundational Fitness & Training II (FFT II)

FFT II is a fitness program for participants that have or are currently involved in a fitness regimen.

Fitness Expo

The Takoma Park Recreation Department staff is preparing for our annual Fitness Expo. This year’s expo will take place on the grounds of the Takoma Park Recreation Center. Join us for an exciting and knowledgeable day that will include fitness demonstrations and presentations from local community health and wellness organizations. For more information, contact Vincent Cain at 301-891-7289 or vincentc@takomaparkmd.gov.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
All Ages
Saturday, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
April 10
Free

The program builds on the concepts of Classic FFT which utilizes various movements from numerous disciplines while utilizing minimal resistance and multiple repetitions. Advanced adds more resistance and incorporates floor or mat exercises using hand weights; bands/tubes; abdominal roller and exercise balls. All equipment will need to be provided by the participants. FFT II will enhance tone/strengthen all major muscle groups; increase stamina and flexibility. Instructor: Michael Williams
18 and older
Saturdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Free



Let's Move Caribbean Dance

Dance your worries away with this fun, energetic, and easy-to-follow dance workout. Afro-Caribbean fitness dance class is for all ages and will get the body moving to build cardio endurance and coordination. Instructor: KJ Total Fitness
All Ages
Fridays, 6–7 p.m.
Free

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

Rise and Move

This class will strengthen your muscles (including your heart), increase mobility in your joints, provide you with energy and improve your coordination. Your coach will educate, guide, and assist you throughout

RECREATION

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

VIRTUAL CLASSES

the entire class to ensure you are performing movements safely and effectively. Equipment needed: Floor space, high back chair, mat, and weights (optional).

18 and up
8-week session
Mondays, 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 video uploaded to site each Wednesday
Free

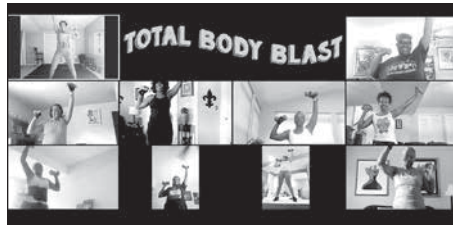
Stretch and Strengthen

Workout with a certified fitness coach who will lead you through a class that will increase your flexibility and help tone your muscles. This class is for all fitness levels, and you are encouraged to work at your own pace.

16 and up
Mondays, 6–6:30 p.m.
April 5-May 24
Free

Total Body Blast

This class provides a mix of calisthenics, balance, strength training, and cardiovascular exercise in one dynamic session. Participants will work at their own pace to complete the workout that focuses on all major muscle groups. Instructor: KJ Total Fitness



16 and older
Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.
Free

Yoga (Beginner)

This Zoom class will get you on your feet, stretching and reaching; energize you when you feel dull, and bring calm on stressful days. Appropriate for seniors. No prior experience needed. Equipment: Yoga mat, 2 blocks, 2 blankets, 1 belt. Instructor: Tehseen Chettri
18 and older
Wednesdays, 5:30–6:30 p.m.
Free

MARTIAL ARTS

Karate Self Defense

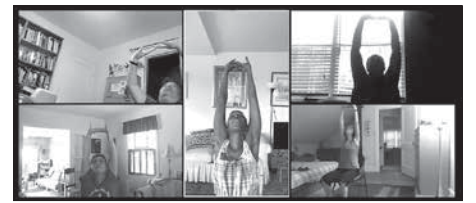
Promote physical fitness, self-defense, leadership, and cultural exchange through the practice of a traditional Okinawan karate style, Isshinryu (which means One Heart Way). This class will consist of warm-ups, stretching, and learning and practicing Isshinryu Karate upper and lower body basics.

16 and up
8-week session
Mondays, 6:30–7 p.m.
Free

55+

Phone a Neighbor

Are you a senior who would like an occasional phone calls while staying home? To be connected with a friendly volunteer, contact Paula Lisowski at 240-687-4132 or paula@takomaparkmd.gov.



FITNESS



Classic Foundational Fitness and Training

The program is designed to enhance strength, decrease fall risks, increase physical fitness level, improve cardiovascular capacity and range of motion, and enhance general sense of well-being. Class utilizes a high-back chair, light hand weights and or a resistance tube. Equipment is not provided. Have a towel and water bottle nearby. Instructor: Michael Williams
55 and older
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10–11 a.m.
Free

Enhance Your Fitness

The class focuses on core strengthening utilizing various body strength training exercises. Instructor: Adriene Buist
55 and older
Tuesdays, 8:45–9:45 a.m.
Free

Line Dance

Line Dancing is great physical and mental exercise. Strengthening of bones and muscles, weight loss, increased stamina and flexibility, and stress reduction are just some of the benefits of dancing. Learn how exercise can be fun with music. No experience necessary. Instructor: Barbara Brown
55 and older
Wednesdays, 1–2 p.m.
Free

Yoga for Healthy Aging

This class helps build strength, endurance, flexibility, and range-of-motion and improve posture and balance, and aids in preventing/reversing bone loss related to osteoporosis using seated, standing, and floor poses and breathing and relaxation techniques. Students need to provide their own yoga sticky mats, a straight-backed chair, access to a wall, a yoga belt (or equivalent, e.g., a necktie), a tennis ball, and preferably a yoga block and blanket. Instructor: Carol Mermey
55 and older
Wednesdays, 2:15–3:15 p.m.
Free

Instructor Spotlight: Q & A with Carla Perlo

Carla is a contract instructor with the Recreation Department and started working with us six months ago. She has taught the following classes: Be Creative Arts & Crafts, Creative Literacy & Movement, Horticulture/Garden Art, and Let's Grow Gardening & Garden Art. She has brought excitement and zeal to these classes, and we continue to receive positive feedback from parents and participants.

Q: Where did you get your interest in teaching these classes?

A: From 1980–2017, I served as the founding director at Dance Place (dance-place.org). During that time, I was very active as a dancer, choreographer, director, and instructor. I also created the curriculum for our afterschool program, (Energizers Boys and Girls Club and Junior Staff) and summer camp. As [enrollment in] those programs increased, I hired and trained staff to guide the programs; however, I always served as a guest instructor one day a week.

I love working with young people, and teaching, it is a lifeline for me. With every class, I learn more about myself and my students. I enjoy the challenge of communicating clearly, breaking things down into bite-sized pieces that are easy to understand, and seeing the joy in my students' faces when they are being creative and comprehending concepts. After leaving my directorship role at Dance Place, I decided to focus my attention to the community in which I have lived for 37 years, Takoma Park.



Carla Perlo, then (above) and now (left)

Before the pandemic, I was substitute teaching for Montgomery County Public Schools. With the closing of schools because COVID-19, I began teaching online, and it seemed natural to turn to Takoma Park Recreation to offer subjects that I believe to be ideal for young people (creative movement, literacy, horticulture as well as arts & crafts). These are topics I love that bring me great joy. I am so grateful to the City of Takoma Park Recreation Department for providing me with this opportunity.

Q: Why do you think it is important for participants to continue to take your class and others during this pandemic?

A: While I crave to teach in person again when it is safe, I also have seen the advantage of online teaching due to the pandemic. It provides opportunities for students

who cannot travel to the site where the class is being held. It also helps parents that are juggling the demands of busy schedules (work, parents, children) that otherwise would not be able to transport their children to the site for live instruction. My online classes build a sense of community with the participants and provide fun, educational, and creative experiences.

Q: What do you hope participants take away from your classes?

A: A love of lifetime learning, and that education should be fun and creative. I hope all of my students leave each class with a positive self-image, feeling creative, happy, inspired, and energized.

Q: How do you know when you have had a successful class?

A: I judge success by the smiling faces of my students as we finish each class with the sign language of good job, a wave or a gesture of a kiss blown off a hand. Also, by the photos that their parents so kindly email to me of their projects created both during and outside of class.

Q: Beside these classes, what do you like to do?

A: I love to dance, garden, sketch, paint, swim, read, sit in front of the fire, and feed the birds. I am passionate about sharing my love of these things with others. I also love real estate and creating affordable housing for young people. Now in the senior years of my life, it is my joy to nurture the younger generation!

Visit takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc for links to join Carla's classes!

LIBRARY



Library Associate Dave Burbank delivers books to a resident.

Dave Delivers

We are now offering a pilot “Books-to-You” program to provide limited book delivery -- **for Takoma Park residents only** --who cannot make it to the Library to pick up their books. Delivery hours are 12–3 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. No deliveries on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday.

To request delivery, send an email with your book requests to librarytakomapark@gmail.com or call this phone number – 240-507-0229 – Monday-Friday 12–6. In the subject heading of the email (or when speaking to our staff by phone), please note that this is a Delivery Request. Then, in the content of the email, please include the address and the

phone number of the person who will be receiving the drop-off. Please note that we will not be able to leave books unattended on porches or in lobbies.

Library Associate Dave Burbank is our book delivery person, and he will call from this phone number – 240-856-0255 – when he is on the way to ensure there will be someone to receive the books. There may be some delay between your request and our delivery schedule, depending on the volume of response and day of the week, so be on the lookout for our call. (Books that are not able to be picked up at the door will be checked back in and returned to circulation).

“Books-to-Go” Info

- You can pick up your books from 2–8, Monday-Friday, and noon–6 p.m. on Saturdays.
- You may now place a hold on an item that is checked out.

Just go to our catalog: <https://takoma.bywatersolutions.com>. Log in, then type what you are searching for into the search box at the top. Click “Go.” A list of matching items will come up – look through that list to find what you want. If it says CHECKED OUT (it says this in red capital letters), you can click the

“Place Hold” button right there or open the actual catalog record for the book and look it over to be sure this is what you want. There is a hold button there too. **Note:** You cannot place a hold if there are copies available. Instead, send an email request for that book to librarytakomapark@gmail.com, and we will let you know when it is ready for you to pick up. If you are having trouble logging in, please sign up at <http://www.tinyurl.com/tkpklibrarycards>, so we can help you.

BOOK GIVEAWAY

Look for a plastic bin full of books on a cart outside our “Books-to-Go” pick-up spot. Inside this bin are books that are looking for a new home! Please feel free to take one – or more – whether you are picking up library books. We are calling this our “Books-to-Keep” program – please do not return the books to us, as they are yours to keep.

CALENDAR

The library building is closed, but we’re continuing to offer several great library programs – weekly and monthly -- via Zoom. To participate, go to <https://zoom.us>. Click on “Join a Meeting” and put in the Meeting ID (and Meeting PW, if any) listed with each program. Registration isn’t required for these programs, but, if you are registered, we will send reminders as well as notices of any changes or cancellations. To register, go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryprograms. Please refresh your browser first to ensure you get the most updated information. Also, please make sure you register for the “Zoom” version of these programs.

PROGRAMS: To keep up with all our programs, go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents.

NOTE: Zoom Circle Time will now take place every Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. Mark your calendars!

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

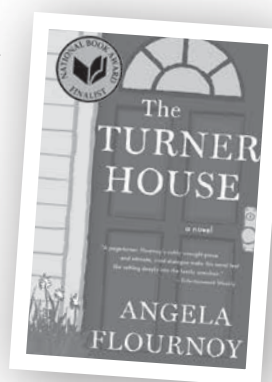
Zoom Comics Jam: Once a month on a Wednesday at 4 p.m. The next date is March 10. To keep up with the schedule, please register for Zoom Comics Jam at www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents; we’ll send an email with the next date to all registered. The Meeting ID for Zoom Comics Jam is 734-913-6285. No Meeting Password needed.

Zoom Spanish Circle Time: Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. To participate in Zoom Spanish Circle Time, go to: <https://zoom.us/> Then put in Meeting ID: 959-5178-5847 and Meeting Password: 793725

Zoom Scribbler’s Cabal: Fridays at 4 p.m. Meeting ID is 734-913-6285 (same as Comics Jam), no Meeting Password needed.

Friends Book Group Discussion with Tim Rahn

The Friends Book Group will discuss *The Turner House* by Angela Flournoy on Thursday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m. in an online meeting. A National Book Award finalist in 2015, *The Turner House* takes place in during the summer of 2008 in Detroit. The Turners of the title are a large African-American family of 13 children. The house is the family home, now vacant in a decaying neighborhood of Detroit’s East Side and the source of conflict within the family.



Flournoy focuses the narrative on three of the children: Charles or Cha-Cha the oldest, Leala the youngest now squatting in the vacant house, and Troy one of the middle children trying to assert his own worth in the family. The novel reveals and explores the influences of the previ-

ous generations in the family giving the reader a complex portrait of an American family. Added to the multigenerational mix are “haints” or ghosts that seem to plague the family, in particular Cha-Cha. By using haints, Flournoy provides an element of magical realism to the story.

“Flournoy moves from one point of view to another,” wrote Amanda Holmes Duffy in her review of the novel, “handling a range of psychological and emotional perspectives with an alacrity that belies the inherent challenges of this approach.” If you are interested in joining the discussion, and you do not receive Friends Book Group announcements, write to ftpmlbookgroup@gmail.com for details on joining. Copies of *The Turner House* can be borrowed from the library.

LIBRARY BRIEFS

- **Crafts to Go Again!** This month’s craft will be a mini easel and canvas that can be painted with Q-Tips. The craft bags will be available on Saturdays, March 6, 20, 27 and April. 3 (not March 13) from 12–6. Just look for the purple cart near our Books to Go curbside pick-up spot. Each week, there will be 20 bags – first come, first served!
- **Comics Blog:** Library Associate Dave Burbank, who is well known as the library’s graphic novel guru, recently resurrected his Comics Blog and is now writing about new comics added to the Library’s collection. Here is a link to his latest blogpost, which focuses on comics for pre-readers: <https://comixtakoma.wordpress.com/2021/02/01/new-adds-simple-comics-for-pre-readers>. Dave will be regularly updating his blog, so check back for new posts.

Book Reviews: Do you have a middle school or high school student who likes to read and write? They can earn Student Services Learning (SSL) hours by writing book reviews for the library’s Facebook page. The reviews are generally short (about eight sentences) about books of their choice for 1 SSL hour per review. If your teen is interested, contact Children’s Librarian Kati Nolfi at kathrynn@takomaparkmd.gov.

- **WinterQuest:** If you have not yet tried our WinterQuest reading game, you have still got a bit of time to do so! Just pick up a paper gameboard and story on Saturdays from 12–6 (look for the purple cart) or use the online version, which can be found on the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library’s website: <https://ftpml.org/winterquest2020-2021>. WinterQuest is a wonderful way to shake up the winter reading doldrums; the game continues until the first day of spring, March 20.

LIBRARY

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the amazing experiences that we have shared over the years:

- The beginning of public programs for kids, including 2-year olds, which was at one time a novelty – Thanks to Anne Delibert
- The re-incarnation of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library
- The beginning of years of fundraising book sales – originally with help from Andy Cincotta, and later Patti Mallin with Tom Roberts, and Merrill Leffler with the Friends
- The vision and effort leading toward successful library interior renovations in 1990 with help from Kay Rader (We were virtually subcontractors with full oversight as the work progressed. More than 350 people signed a thank-you letter when the project was finished.)

- The creation of the Takoma Park Film Festival and the Favorite Poem Evening – thanks to Jillian Hershberger and Wendy Ripley of what was then CUC.
- The Liz Lerman Dance Exchange evening of original dance in the library (yes, with staff!)
- The Mike Morrissey Golf Tournaments, which raised funds for the Library with golfing assistance from Dave Burbank, Gene Miller, and Nic Fontem
- The highly successful book clubs for adults – begun by Merrill Leffler and continued by Phil Schewe and Tim Rahn
- The amazing work of Karen MacPherson in initiating a Banned Book Club for kids – for which she and then middle schooler Alanna Natanson were awarded the prestigious John Philip Immroth Award by the American Library Association
- Karen's partnership with Politics and

Prose Bookstore, which has brought us innumerable illustrious children's authors and illustrators

- The creation of our own remarkable SummerQuest summer reading program with inexhaustible supplies of original art and stories by Dave Burbank
- The area's best collection of graphic novels for kids and adults curated by Dave
- The very first library automation with help and hard work from Nic Fontem and Rebecca Brown as well as the staff and residents of Takoma Park
- The migration to an improved integrated library management system (ILS), the creation of our library web page, the introduction of public computers, the creative staff schedules which enabled us to open on Sundays, and the development of our current Books-to-go program (Nearly every step in Library automation, which depended on the library's own energy and resources for

many years, none would have been possible without Rebecca Brown's efforts.)

- When the Library building had to close its doors in March of last year, services continued to flourish through the creativity and tenacity of Janet Jendrzeycyk, Elizabeth Ferry, Gene Miller, Jill Raymond, Kati Nolfi, Phil Shapiro, Karen, Dave, Wanda Hsiung, Anne LeVeque, Mary Rein, and others.

What really has made all of these things possible, in addition to our wonderful staff, is the freedom and flexibility of being an independent Library, which along with community support, has allowed us to grow and thrive.

And I extend special thanks to City Manager Suzanne Ludlow, who understood and helped us leverage opportunities for growth and progress toward a new building.

It has been a privilege.

Staying mentally and physically fit

By Sean Gossard

For more than five years, jiu-jitsu instructor Deivid Dias has been helping Takoma Park residents stay fit mentally and physically with self-defense and jiu-jitsu training. And with an end to the pandemic still a ways off, it's a great time to tend to that self-care.

"My focus is on Brazilian jiu-jitsu, which involves grappling and submission moves so that the smaller and weaker can defeat the bigger and stronger using chokes and arm locks," Dias said. "Our main goal is to encourage us all to make healthy exercise habits part of our lives."

A self-defense martial art, Brazilian jiu-jitsu dates back to the 1920s and was once popular among mixed martial art fighters in the UFC. Dias, a native of Brazil, opened WDC Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and Fitness Academy at 720 Erie Ave. on the corner of Erie Avenue and Flower Avenue three years ago and has been teaching jiu-jitsu, self-defense, and personal fitness. Dias is a GFTeam Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu brown belt and has competed in international competitions.

Lately, he's been adapting to the challenges of the pandemic. "It's been tough on me though," he said. "I've lost half my students and stopped doing classes with children for their safety."

To keep things safer, Dias has cut the size of classes, implemented temperature



Deivid Dias (front row far left) with some of his students

checks, added air purifiers, and requires mask use during training. "First we do temperature checks right away and do solo drills and designate partners with people who have been in the same groups for a few months now," he said.

Despite the added pressures of the pandemic, Dias is staying positive that things will return to normal soon. "We're living through a weird time," he said, "but this is the beginning of the end."

And while he isn't adding new students to his classes, he is offering one-on-one training or small group self-defense training. "I do provide regular private and small group classes, jiu-jitsu, self-defense, and personal fitness," Dias said. If you're interested in training with Dias, visit www.wdcbjj.com.

share your thoughts on any of the park projects mentioned above, visit the Montgomery Parks Playground Renovation Program webpage: www.montgomeryparks.org/projects/directory/playground-renovation-program. The webpage features project status reports, updates, and links to the Open Town Hall Forum pages for your comments.

We Belong Here: The Takoma Park Equity Walk

It's a hop, skip and a jump away. An average of 12 people a day are exploring the stations in English, Spanish and Amharic and engaging in conversations about some of the most pressing issues of the day. Let's examine one station each month! MARCH on over to Grant Avenue or Anne Street to interact with the station called Walking and Talking. Find the inspirational words painted on the sidewalk. You will find a QR code nearby. Scan the code on your smartphone and choose your preferred language. Now scroll down to the Walking and Talking stations prompts.

Unite. Play. Learn. Lead. Respect. Love. Create. Pause at each word. Think about the meaning. Talk about what each word means in your family,



A section of the Equity Walk

in your community in our country. What does it mean to "walk in someone else's shoes?" Are you kind? Are you curious? Are you creative? Do you respect others? Do you respect yourself? What makes you feel included? What is an affirmation? Say these and your own affirmations: I am kind. I am curious. I am creative. I belong.

Still want to know more? Click on the link *Learn more, read these books* to find books for all ages recommended by our own Takoma Park librarians. You can even click on the book to take you to the library catalog to see if the book is available. If you have visited We Belong Here and want to share a photo or a story, please do! Contact Lucy Neher at lucyn@takomaparkmd.gov. We look forward to hearing from you.

Grants Application Closing This Month

The Community Quality of Life Grants program's application will close on Thursday, March 11, 2021, at 5 p.m. Nonprofit organizations and business associations serving, or interested in serving, Takoma Park residents should visit takomaparkmd.gov/grants to review the program guidelines and apply.

The Community Quality of Life Grants program offers up to \$10,000 in financial support for projects that provide greater access and opportunities for participation in the arts and sciences in Takoma Park. Additionally, while not

required, the City is encouraging applications for programming that connects arts and sciences with skills that promote workforce development and entrepreneurial programs for low-and-moderate-income Takoma Park residents.

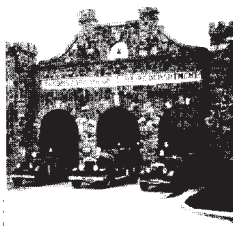
Funding is available for projects taking place between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022. For more information and to apply, visit: takomaparkmd.gov/grants and follow the links to the program page and application. Contact Jennifer Hale, grants coordinator, at jenniferh@takomaparkmd.gov if you have any questions.

PARK RENOVATIONS

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quality.

The county would like to hear suggestions from you on what you would like to see at your parks and any comments you may have on the proposed designs. To engage in the planning process and



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

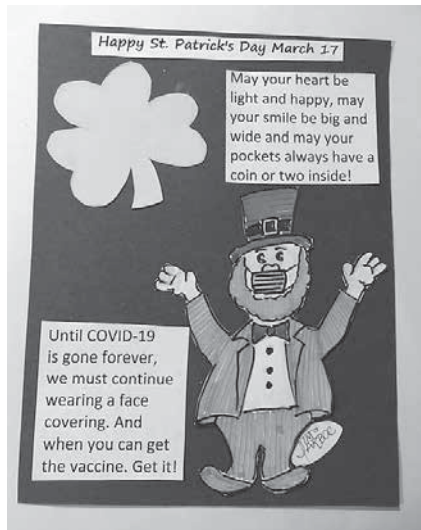
By Jim Jarboe

Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as March 1, 2021 10 people died in fires compared to 6 in 2020.

Hot vehicle deaths

As of March 1, 2021 2 children across the country have died in hot/cold vehicles. It can happen anytime and anywhere, we must continue to follow the rule, when you leave your vehicle everyone goes with you.



Safety message

We continue to remind everyone that cooking is still the number one cause of home fires. Also, you must have working smoke alarms on all levels of your home. Test them monthly.

Caring About Residents Everyday (CARE) Program

Caring About Residents Everyday (CARE) is a program directed at our residents who live alone with special needs, or just need to be checked on each day. To be a part of CARE, residents who need to be checked on will register with the Police Department. They will call us once each day between 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. If they don't call, we will call them. If they do not answer, we will send a patrol officer to check on their welfare. This program is to protect those in need and bring a sense of peace to those friends and relatives who care, but who are not close enough to check themselves. CARE is another way

we can give back to the community and take care of those in need. To register for this program:

Contact Cathy Plevy at cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov,

Find the agreement and registration form on our website at takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/services-and-programs/caring-about-residents-everyday-care-2, or

On the police page, click on services and programs.



Editor's note

English:

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

French:

Recherchez cette icône à côté des articles du bulletin que

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

Spanish:

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

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

Amharic:

ከታች ያለውን ደህን ኮድ ይፈልጉ የዚህ መጽሔት አርባ ስም አሉ በእነዚህ ቁጥሮች በመስመር ላይ ማንበብ ይቻላል ትርጉሙን በመጠቀም በታክሚ ከተማ ውስጥ ያለውን በህገ ሃገር ድር ጣቢያ ጠቀስኋል። ከዚህ በላይ ለአገልግሎት አገልግሎት በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥንግ ላይ ታንባለች የአሰራር አገልግሎት ይመደባል የሚጠቀሙበት ቁጥር ተቀልቋል ሳጥን።

New Opportunities— Good News!

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

With all the difficulties of the past year, it's a pleasure to share some good news in the form of three new opportunities to get help: vaccine access, emergency 911 texting for those with disabilities, and access to the internet.

Vaccine Hunters

The COVID-19 vaccine rollout has been difficult to navigate for many people. The elderly are believed to be particularly vulnerable, but getting access or mastering the internet process can especially difficult for seniors. Now, there's help!

Many seniors were having trouble getting vaccine appointments, so a group of eight women—Montgomery County teachers—formed "Vaccine Hunters" at the end of January. Their interest is helping others get the COVID vaccine, especially those over 75 who may not have friends or family available locally or who don't have access to the internet or the skill to navigate the sign-up process. This help is offered in English and Spanish. Vaccine Hunters developed a database of places offering the vaccine contained in one spreadsheet—at 22 locations! The document shows location, days/hours open, contact information, next opening to make appointments, frequent updates and much more. This has been so valuable that more 220 seniors were booked their first week in operation.

As of mid-February, appointments had to be halted due to lack of vaccines. Check the Facebook page (www.facebook.com/vaccinehunters) and the spreadsheet for updates. During this time, the group is doing advocacy to the Montgomery County Health Department, the County Council, and the Latino Health Initiative to expand access, provide telephone assistance, and more.

Email: vaccinehunters@gmail.com

Call: 240-777-2982

Spreadsheet:

<http://bit.ly/MDvaccinehunters>



TEXT 911

What happens when there's an emergency and you or another person need immediate help? Many people just call 911. But how can you call 911 if you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability? What about times when an injury makes talking difficult or it's unsafe to voice call 911? Has this happened to you or to someone you know?

Now there's a solution. Maryland launched Text 911 in late August 2020. Those needing help can enter 911 in the "to" line of the text message; include a brief explanation, type of help needed (fire, police, medical) and location. A specialist will respond. Non-English services are available in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. For details, visit <https://conduitstreet.mdcounties.org/2020/08/19/maryland-launches-statewide-text-to-911-service>.

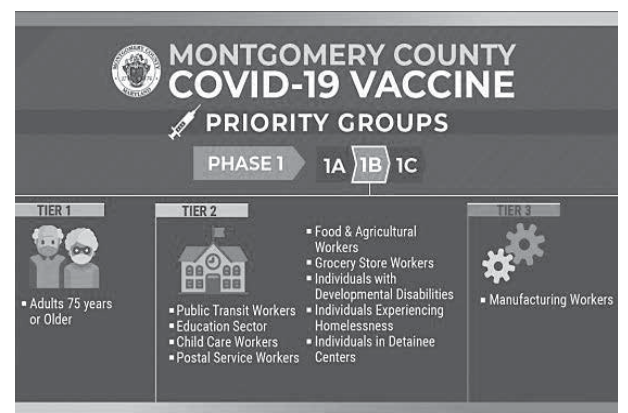
Internet to Go

It's become critical to have internet access, whether it's for vaccine sign up, food delivery, prescription orders, or information about city or neighborhood developments. And if you don't have this service, what might you miss or what critical help might you lose? At last, there's an opportunity to borrow internet access. Montgomery County Libraries (MCPL) launched "Internet-to-Go," a mobile lending program of 250 hotspots. Library members—at least 14 years old—can borrow a mobile hotspot for two weeks from any MCPL for two weeks, not renewable! Hotspots can be reserved via the MCPL catalogue (<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/library/services/internet-to-go.html>), which of course requires the internet, or by calling 240-777-0001.

Please share this information. This support is sorely needed.

It's easy to contact us at tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7126. Join us on Talk of Takoma WOWN/LP 94.3 for "Dear Bea(trice) Prepared."

As vaccine information is rapidly changing we encourage all residents to visit the Montgomery County Vaccine Website (www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/vaccine) as well as Maryland State Vaccine Website (coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine) for updated information. We also encourage all residents to text "MDReady" to 898-211 to get alerts from the State, including notices of when there are available appointments at the mass vaccination sites.



NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE BIKEWAY - CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MD FY21 Maryland Bikeways Program Proposal



Map of project area highlights Section A (60% design) and Section B (30% design)

New Ave Bikeways Project

The New Ave Bikeways Project seeks to creatively redesign the underutilized service lanes on the southbound side on New Hampshire Avenue as a two-directional bikeway, while still providing vehicular access to properties.

The New Ave Bikeway is currently supported by a Maryland Bikeways grant to develop semi-final and final design documents. It will provide design and consideration of pavement markings, signage, and curb and sidewalk adjustments, vertical barriers between cyclists and vehicular traffic, and possible elimination of some curbside parking in the service lane. The outcome of the project is final engineering drawings that the City can use to apply for further funding to complete the Bikeway's eventual construction. The City, in conjunction with MWCOG, selected a project consultant, Rummel, Klepper, and Kahl (RK&K) for the de-

sign work.

Design for Section A of the project has reached 60 percent completion and design for Section B has reached 30 percent completion. An agency stakeholder meeting was held in December 2020. Public meetings for resident input as well as a Montgomery Planning Board Mandatory Referral hearing were held February 18, 2021 to gain design approval from Montgomery County Planning. Completion of 60 percent design for Section B is slated for Summer/Fall 2021 with completion of 100 percent design for Section A slated for Spring 2022.

More detailed information about this project can be found on the City website under the New Ave Bikeway page: takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/planning-and-community-development/new-ave-bikeway.

RODENT CONTROL

■ From page 4

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


Rodents can enter homes through open or unscreened doors and windows, ven-






Homeownership Opportunities with Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland


Rehab/Conversion/Duplex Unit (A) Takoma Park, MD



Well suited for
1-4 family members



2 bedrooms




2 bathrooms


Additional features:

- Garage
- Driveway
- Fenced back yard
- In established community


Rehab/Conversion/Duplex Unit (B) Takoma Park, MD



Well suited for
1-5 family members



3 bedrooms



2 bathrooms

Additional features:

- Driveway
- Fenced back yard
- In established community

Family Size	Minimum Income	Maximum Income
1	\$53,000	\$55,750
2	\$53,000	\$63,700
3	\$53,000	\$71,650
4	\$53,000	\$79,600
5	\$53,000	\$86,000


*Minimum credit score of 580

Interested?

For more information on the property and how to apply, visit our website habitatmm.org. Applications for the property will be open March 3rd through March 20th.

Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland

For more information or to join our email notification list, visit habitatmm.org or call 301-990-0014 x21.
MHBR NO. 7186



Equal Housing Statement:

Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland is pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, sex, marital status, physical or mental disability, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, presence of children, source of income, sexual orientation, gender identity, age and family responsibilities.



COVID-19 FRAUD AND SCAM





COVID-19 Consumer Scams

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) warns of scammers preying on consumers during the pandemic trying to capitalize on the COVID-19 vaccines. Anyone calling or texting and asking you to pay for a vaccine is a scammer. Get tips at fcc.gov/covid-scams.

tilators, 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.

Rats can gnaw a hole if they find a chipped or indented edge from which to start. Close all openings and cover edges that can be chewed with gnaw-proof materials such as sheet metal, cement or hardware cloth.

Doors should 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. 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.

March 2021 Calendar

For the foreseeable future, we will 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 will consider it for inclusion in the calendar.

Deadline for the April issue is March 12, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning March 26. To submit virtual calendar items, email tpnewse-ditor@takomaparkmd.gov.

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.

SHARE IDEAS

Attend virtual City Council meetings!

Wednesday, March 3, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 23, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 10, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Regular Meeting

***The City Council will not meet on Wednesday, March 30.**

Wednesday, March 17, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Regular Meeting

Detailed agendas are available for review online at 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 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.

VILLAGE OF TAKOMA PARK EVENTS

Armchair Travel: A Virtual Visit to Vietnam Wednesday, March 10, 2–3

Laurie Welch traveled to Vietnam in early 2019, learning about the legacy of the Vietnam war as well as seeing UNESCO World Heritage Sites, visiting Hanoi, Hue, the DMV area of the Vietnam war, Hoi An and Hailong Bay. Using photos, she will describe her journey, looking at the beauty of the country and some of the legacy of the war. Open to all, registration is required. Please go to villageoftakomapark.com and click on this topic under “Upcoming Events” to access more information, and to register and receive the Zoom link.

Aging Well: Understanding Age-Related Hearing Loss Thursday, March 25, 12:30–2 (Virtual Event)

Hearing loss is common as we age and can have significant effects on our daily functioning and relationships. Join us for a session with representatives from the University of Maryland Hearing and Speech Clinic to understand the changes that occur with age-related hearing loss, the signs that it is time to seek help, what to expect at a hearing assessment, and to get information on hearing aids and other resources for improving hearing functioning and communication. Free and open to all; registration required. Please go to villageoftakomapark.com and click on this topic under “Upcoming Events” to register and receive the Zoom link.

STAY ACTIVE

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

Rise and Move
This class will strengthen your muscles (including your heart), increase mobility in your joints, provide you with energy and improve your coordination.
Mondays, 10–11 a.m.

Qi Gong
Adult Fitness – Learn gentle movements to increase mobility and flexibility.
Tuesdays, 7–7:30 p.m.

Yoga for Healthy Aging
Using a series of seated, standing, and floor poses, this class helps build strength and endurance, increase flexibility and range-of-motion, improve posture and balance while aiding in the prevention bone loss related to osteoporosis.
Wednesdays, 2:15–3:15 p.m.

Fitness for Life
Adult Fitness – Reach your fitness goals.
Thursdays, 11–12 p.m.

Zoomba Gold/Zumba Gold
55+ Fitness – Move your body to the Zumba beat.
Fridays, 10–11 a.m.

Recess Break
Join Ms. Charonne on Saturday mornings for stretching, fun and fitness! Spreading the word spreads more fun!
Instructor: Charonne Butler
Saturdays, 10:30–11 a.m.

Youth Dance
Learn different dance techniques weekly.
Instructor: Charonne Butler
Sundays, 11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee Encore Film Screenings

The Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee has arranged for three encore screenings of the film The Nuns, The Priests, and The Bombs on City TV, YouTube, and Facebook. The additional viewing opportunities will be March 7 and March 9 at 4 p.m. and March 11 at 7 p.m. The screenings will include the recorded post film discussion with filmmaker Helen Young and activist Mark Colvill.

Create an Accessory Dwelling Unit in your Single Family Hom

Webinar
Thursday, March 25, 7–8 p.m.
Do you have a basement or other space in your home that could easily be converted into a separate apartment? Montgomery County allows for these Accessory Dwelling Units on properties zoned for single family homes. ADUs provide a source of income for the homeowner, and offer opportunities for renters looking for housing in neighborhood settings. Learn about the requirements for an ADU permit and a City of Takoma Park rental housing license, in a conversation with the City’s Licensing Specialist, Patti Mallin, and Montgomery County’s Ivan Eloisa, who oversees ADU inspections, and TKPK homeowners who already have approved ADUs. The discussion will include the City’s new Up to Code ADU grant program. Contact Patti Mallin at pattim@takomaparkmd.gov or 240-315-6721 for more information, and watch the Insider and the City’s social media for registration information.

Parkinson’s and Movement Disorder Support Group

Do you have Parkinson’s or another movement disorder? Or are you a caregiver? If so, you might be interested in our informal support group which meets monthly to share resources and experiences. Our meetings are virtual with a Zoom call, but soon we hope to return to in-person meetings at the Takoma Park Municipal Building. It is free, and you don’t have to be a resident of Takoma Park. For further information, contact Tom Bigford at tebigford@gmail.com or 301-580-4056.

Takoma Park’s 2021 4th of July Celebration

Each January, the Takoma Park Independence Day Committee (TPIDC) meets to begin planning for Takoma Park’s annual 4th of July Celebration, which traditionally includes a parade, evening program, and fireworks. This year the committee is assessing what type of celebration might be possible given the ongoing public health crisis around the COVID-19 pandemic, potential ongoing restrictions on crowd size, and the safety of all who join the celebration each year. We are exploring all potential options. It may be different this year, but if there is a way to do so safely, we hope to celebrate the 132nd anniversary of the Takoma Park Independence Day Celebration with you all on July 4, 2021. To stay up to date on any decisions made about Independence Day 2021, please consider joining the committee or visit www.takomapark4th.org. Thank you for your support and please stay safe.

