Neighbors helping neighbors: Mutual aid networks rise to meet growing need

By Virginia Myers

If there is anything good that has come out of this year of pandemic, racial reckoning and economic distress, it could be the way communities have come together. Hit by job loss when businesses closed due to COVID-19 restrictions; slammed by the disease itself, which took the lives of 1,500 people in Montgomery County and sickened 67,000 others; and plagued by a litany of racially motivated violence and fear; many Takoma Parkers have struggled with the most basic needs.

Many others have stepped up to help. You may see them at the Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op or the Takoma Park Adventist Church on certain days of the week, bagging groceries, dropping off casseroles and lining up in cars to take the food home.

These activities are part of Small Things Matter, a 100 percent volunteer-run organization that began as a club for teens and tweens at Takoma Park Middle School. As part of the Difference Makers club, the students started out making soft toys for hospitalized children and then began a small food donation project. By 2017 it had grown so big that...

Small Matters volunteers at work

School. As part of the Difference Makers club, the students started out making soft toys for hospitalized children and then began a small food donation project. By 2017 it had grown so big that...

NEIGHBORS ▶ Page 3

Takoma Park wheeling out the bike lanes

By Sean Gossard

Takoma Park is currently in the planning stages of a major transportation development project that is hoping to expand the city’s access to bike lanes. The New Ave Bikeway project is meant 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,” according to the City’s website.

Housing & Community Development, Planning and Development Manager Ro- salind Grigsby said the project is to focus on two major initiatives important to the City Council, race equality and climate change. “We feel strongly that this is a necessary next step to address the issues of inequality and climate change,” Grigsby said. “We know a good portion of greenhouse gas in the City comes from transportation. We also know that the most underserved portion of the population in Takoma Park are people who, for all reasons including work schedules and opportunities, are those who tend to have...

BIKE LANES ▶ Page 3

Information and Resources: Covid19 takomaparkmd.gov

Questions, Comments and Suggestions askus@takomaparkmd.gov

#TogetherTKPK

May is Bike Month!

Bike to Work Day: Celebrate bicycling as a clean, fun, and healthy way to exercise on Friday, May 21. Bike to Work Day will have pit stops with social distancing. Come by Ta- koma Park to receive a free T-shirt and refreshments. For more information and to register, visit biketoworkmetrodc.com.

Takoma Park Bike Map: Ta- koma Park is a great place to ride a bike for your daily commute, running errands, or just for fun. Signed, on-street bike routes connect commercial districts, the Takoma Park Community Center, and transit facilities with regional multi-use trails. https://www.thenewave.com/_files/docs/tpbikemap-online_2.pdf

Takoma Park Bike Repair Stations: Takoma Park has installed three bike repair stations, located at the Community Center outside the entrance to the Police Station, on New Hampshire Avenue near the Sligo Creek Trail, and on the Metropolitan Branch Trail across from Belle Ziegler Park. The stations include air pumps and the basic tools needed to make emergency bike re- pairs.

Capital City Bikeshare: Takoma Park has seven Capital Bikeshare stations. Pick up one of the iconic red bikes in the city and ride to any of Capital Bikeshare’s 370+ stations in the Metropolitan Washington area. https://secure.capitalbikeshare.com/map

Check the City webpage for bike information:
takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/bikeways-program

Inside

Art on the Move Page 5
The Return of Summer Camps Page 7
Dance On Festival Page 9
REMOTE/VIRTUAL MEETINGS CONTINUE
We expect that meetings will continue to take place in a remote/virtual format. 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 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 to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov or by U.S. mail will be shared with the full Council.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS IN MAY
• Wednesday, May 12, 7:30 p.m. – City Council Regular Meeting
• Wednesday, May 19, 7:30 p.m. – City Council Regular Meeting
• Wednesday, May 26, 7:30 p.m. – City Council Regular Meeting
• Wednesday, June 2, 7:30 p.m. – City Council Regular Meeting
• The City Council is expected to meet in Administrative Function Session to conduct interviews for the City Manager position on May 11 and May 17. Administrative Function Sessions are closed to the public.

CITY BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Meetings will be held remotely for the duration of the public health crisis.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION
Tuesday, May 25, 7 p.m.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
Thursday, May 13, 7 p.m.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
Thursday, May 27, 7 p.m.

FAÇADE ADVISORY BOARD
Tuesday, May 11, 8:30 p.m.

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE
Tuesday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.

PARKING MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
Thursday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.

POLICE CHIEF’S ADVISORY BOARD
Monday, May 17, 7 p.m.

RECREATION COMMITTEE
Thursday, May 20, 7 p.m.

REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY TASK FORCE
Community Workshop on Draft Recommendations
Monday, May 24, 5:30 p.m.

MEETINGS
Tuesday, May 11, 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 18, 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 25, 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, June 1, 5:30 p.m.

TREE COMMISSION
Tuesday, May 11, 7 p.m.

YOUTH COUNCIL
Sunday, May 16, 3:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 23, 3:30 p.m.

Individuals interested in receiving a weekly City 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 Jesse Carpenter, City Clerk, at jessie@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7287 at least 48 hours in advance.

VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
Due to the public health crisis, the City Council has been meeting remotely by video conference. This will continue as long as necessary. The meetings are available to watch live (or view afterwards) in all the usual ways:
• on City TV (RCN - Channel 13, HD Channel 1060 Comcast/xfinity - Channel 13 Verizon Fios - Channel 28)
• 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. Anyone wishing to share a slide or video must make the request at least 24 hours before the meeting by contacting Mayor Kate Stewart. The meeting link will be provided by weekly email from the City Clerk and on the City website. For those not able to comment at the meeting, written comments may be sent by email to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov to be circulated to the City Council.

VITAL ORGANIZATIONS

Recreation/Facilities Rental
City Council Action

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

On March 17, 2021, the City Council approved installation of traffic calming on the 8000 block of Wildwood Drive (Ordinance 2021-10) and on Darwin Avenue (Ordinance 2021-11). First reading of the ordinances was held on March 10, Resolution 2021-9 was adopted to set forth stormwater management policies and goals. (Councilmember Smith voted no.) Ordinance 2021-13 was adopted to authorize a contract with Housing Initiative Partnership and use of $200,000 from the Housing Reserve Fund for a housing project at 320 Lincoln Avenue. Ordinance 2021-12 was adopted on March 24, 2021. The ordinance amended Chapter 16.08, Stormwater Management Fee System, of the City Code. (Councilmember Smith voted no.) First reading of the ordinance was held on March 17.

The City Council approved FY21 Budget Amendment No. 5 by Ordinance 2021-14 on April 7, 2021. First reading was held on March 24.

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
Invasive vines: Thousands of trees at risk in Takoma Park according to new study

By Mike Tidwell

In what could be the first tree survey of its kind in the nation, an invasive plant specialist in February walked all 36 miles of the streets and adjacent areas of Takoma Park, Md., looking for non-native vines. What he found was startling. He directly identified nearly 5,000 trees in the City overrun by invasive vines that, absent intervention, they could die within five to seven years. Most of the affected trees were more than 20 years old, and some were beyond a century in age. Trees play a huge role in sequestering carbon dioxide, cooling urban neighborhoods, and beautifying property. Read the full tree survey at http://bit.ly/vine-study.

Some of the 5,000 trees in our city. We need your help. Sign up at https://bit.ly/takomatreesaver.

The February survey found that a total of 4,850 trees were so infested with climbing vines that, absent intervention, they could die within five to seven years. Most of the affected trees were more than 20 years old, and some were beyond a century in age. Trees play a huge role in sequestering carbon dioxide, cooling urban neighborhoods, and beautifying property. Read the full tree survey at http://bit.ly/vine-study.

Many of us in Takoma Park knew non-native invasive vines were a big problem for trees here, but I was still shocked by the findings in this study. Collectively, 5,000 trees in an urban setting can cover acres of land and, if lost, represent a huge amount of money, comfort, and climate benefits.

The tree survey was conducted by non-native invasive vines. A big problem for trees here, but I was still shocked by the findings in this study. Collectively, 5,000 trees in an urban setting can cover acres of land and, if lost, represent a huge amount of money, comfort, and climate benefits.

The tree survey was conducted by non-native invasive vines. A big problem for trees here, but I was still shocked by the findings in this study. Collectively, 5,000 trees in an urban setting can cover acres of land and, if lost, represent a huge amount of money, comfort, and climate benefits.

The tree survey was conducted by non-native invasive vines. A big problem for trees here, but I was still shocked by the findings in this study. Collectively, 5,000 trees in an urban setting can cover acres of land and, if lost, represent a huge amount of money, comfort, and climate benefits.

The tree survey was conducted by non-native invasive vines. A big problem for trees here, but I was still shocked by the findings in this study. Collectively, 5,000 trees in an urban setting can cover acres of land and, if lost, represent a huge amount of money, comfort, and climate benefits.

The tree survey was conducted by non-native invasive vines. A big problem for trees here, but I was still shocked by the findings in this study. Collectively, 5,000 trees in an urban setting can cover acres of land and, if lost, represent a huge amount of money, comfort, and climate benefits.

The tree survey was conducted by non-native invasive vines. A big problem for trees here, but I was still shocked by the findings in this study. Collectively, 5,000 trees in an urban setting can cover acres of land and, if lost, represent a huge amount of money, comfort, and climate benefits.
The City of Takoma Park law (City Code Chapter 6.20 Rent Stabilization) maintains the affordability of rental units by limiting the number and amount of rent increases charged for a specific rental unit. Generally, the rent may be increased only once in any given 12-month period. Multi-family rental units and rental condominium units are subject to Rent Stabilization. Rent increases are limited to the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index published by the Department of Bureau of Labor Statistics for the period of March 2022 through March 2021.

Beginning July 1, 2021 (through June 30, 2022), the Rent Stabilization Allowance is 2.6%. Landlords are required to comply with Takoma Park’s Rent Stabilization law and cannot increase the rent on occupied units any higher than this allowance.

Pursuant to the City Code, a two-month written notice must be provided to the tenant(s) before you can legally increase the rent. (City Code Chapter 6.20.050 (C) Notice of Annual Rent Increases). A sample rent increase notice is attached for your use. Please note that the following units may be exempt from Rent Stabilization upon application to the City. The exemption is not automatic and must be approved by the City.

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

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

**Home Sharing in Takoma Park**

Thinking about renting out a room in your home and have concerns about finding the right housemate? Just got your Accessory Dwelling Unit approved and licensed but don’t know how to move forward finding tenants? The nonprofit Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP), with the support of Montgomery County, has launched a home-sharing program to successfully identify and match renters who are seeking affordable housing options with homeowners who have attractive and safe spare bedrooms in their homes, or Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) on their property, to rent long-term.

Join the City’s Housing staff as we host a webinar with representatives from HIP to explain the details of the Home Share program and how to participate. The program will be held via Zoom on Thursday, May 20, at 7 p.m. Watch the City’s social media, the Takoma Insider, and the City website for registration details, or contact Patti Mallin, Licensing Specialist, at pattim@takomaparkmd.gov or 240-315-6721.

**Homeless Persons Representation Project**

Free and confidential legal advice is available to assist with civil legal matters:

- **Maryland Legal Aid** - 240-314-0373
- **Homeless Persons Representation Project** - 410-387-3126

**Rent Relief for Takoma Park Tenants**

On April 5, 2021, the District Court reopened to hear cases for Failure to Pay Rent. If you owe back rent, you should immediately seek assistance no matter how much money you owe to your landlord. You should also appear in court if you have received a summons and complaint. There are number of resources available to City of Takoma Park tenants to assist with paying off any outstanding rent balances and support if you appear in court.

Montgomery County launched Phase 3 of its COVID-19 Rent Relief Program on Thursday, April 15, 2021. Tenants who previously placed their name and contact information on the waitlist with the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) will receive an email (or telephone call), along with a link to the application and guidelines when it opens. If you have not received a call or email, apply for assistance by going to the County’s COVID-19 Rent Relief site.

**Eligibility Requirements**

Tenants must be late on their rent and owe at least $1,000. The County will assist with up to $12,000 per household as they take in more pesticides relative to their body weight than adults and have developing organ systems that are more vulnerable and less able to detoxify toxic chemicals.

In 2019, Montgomery County enacted the Healthy Lawns Act, which mirrors the City’s Safe Grow legislation so that all Montgomery County residents can reduce their exposure to the unhealthy effects of harmful lawn care pesticides.

**Organic lawn care isn’t difficult. In fact, it can save you time and money, while protecting you, your family, your pets, and the environment. As we transition to Spring, remove winter debris, test soils, dethatch if thatch is greater than a half inch, over-seed thin areas and apply corn gluten after snow melt for inhibiting germinating weeds. Also, consider aerating your lawn and applying lime if needed for pH adjustment.**

For more information, visit:

- takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/neighborhood-services/safe-grow
- www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns

**Home Sharing in Takoma Park**

Thinking about renting out a room in your home and have concerns about finding the right housemate? Just got your Accessory Dwelling Unit approved and licensed but don’t know how to move forward finding tenants? The nonprofit Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP), with the support of Montgomery County, has launched a home-sharing program to successfully identify and match renters who are seeking affordable housing options with homeowners who have attractive and safe spare bedrooms in their homes, or Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) on their property, to rent long-term.

Join the City’s Housing staff as we host a webinar with representatives from HIP to explain the details of the Home Share program and how to participate. The program will be held via Zoom on Thursday, May 20, at 7 p.m. Watch the City’s social media, the Takoma Insider, and the City website for registration details, or contact Patti Mallin, Licensing Specialist, at pattim@takomaparkmd.gov or 240-315-6721.

**Homeless Persons Representation Project**

Free and confidential legal advice is available to assist with civil legal matters:

- **Maryland Legal Aid** - 240-314-0373
- **Homeless Persons Representation Project** - 410-387-3126

**Rent Relief for Takoma Park Tenants**

On April 5, 2021, the District Court reopened to hear cases for Failure to Pay Rent. If you owe back rent, you should immediately seek assistance no matter how much money you owe to your landlord. You should also appear in court if you have received a summons and complaint. There are number of resources available to City of Takoma Park tenants to assist with paying off any outstanding rent balances and support if you appear in court.

Montgomery County launched Phase 3 of its COVID-19 Rent Relief Program on Thursday, April 15, 2021. Tenants who previously placed their name and contact information on the waitlist with the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) will receive an email (or telephone call), along with a link to the application and guidelines when it opens. If you have not received a call or email, apply for assistance by going to the County’s COVID-19 Rent Relief site.

**Eligibility Requirements**

Tenants must be late on their rent and owe at least $1,000. The County will assist with up to $12,000 per household
Art on the Move Posters Bring Public Art to Local Bus Shelters

Bus shelters across Takoma Park are brighter now with large posters featuring a diverse range of artwork by regional artists in a project that transforms public transportation with public art.

Several bimonthly art exhibitions at the Takoma Park Community Center have been delayed since the Community Center closed last year due to coronavirus restrictions. The City of Takoma Park wanted to share some of that artwork now, so residents and visitors could enjoy it, Arts and Humanities Division Coordinator Brendan Smith said.

“Riding the bus is a great form of public transportation, and local bus shelters are small art galleries now that can brighten people’s day with a fun and healthy dose of art,” Smith said.

Smith worked with graphic designer Charlotte Mann to design seven different posters featuring 14 artists in the Art on the Move series. Four posters include work by individual artists, while three posters focus on groups of artists in upcoming exhibitions of figurative art and abstract art, as well as an exhibition highlighting four Black female artists.

The posters are located in bus shelters across Takoma Park, primarily on Maple Avenue between Philadelphia Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway and New Hampshire Avenue between Eastern Avenue and University Boulevard. The featured artists are excited to share their work with the public in an unusual venue that takes art out of museums and directly to people where they live and work. The artists’ names and websites are included on the posters to support their businesses.

Local resident Julius Kassovic (photoulius.com) has photographed nature along Sligo Creek for 15 years, creating rich, textural images through reflections in the shallow water. He said he looks a little crazy with a tripod and collapsible stool belted to his waist and two cameras slung around his neck. “This project is a fantastic opportunity to help people feel good about being in a bus shelter where they can see something beautiful and thought-provoking,” he said. “It’s also a great opportunity to promote community pride. Bravo to the Arts and Humanities Division for organizing it.”

Samantha Viotty (viottycollection.com) paints portraits of famous Black artists in an homage to them. “A bus shelter with artwork transforms a place of waiting and impatience to provide a few moments of escapism,” she said. “Art often feels so removed from the spaces that we occupy. The bus shelters ground the medium in a different way.”

Shana Kohnstamm (shanakohnstamm.com) crafts beautiful felt sculptures, which can’t be displayed outdoors, so the posters are an ideal way to reach the public. “It provides instant accessibility to my work and hopefully a nice surprise for those who are out and about,” she said. “If there is any one lesson from this past year, it’s that art in all its forms is essential to our wellbeing. It enriches our human experience. The posters are a brilliant method of outreach, and I’m so pleased to be a part of this project.”

The posters will be on display for three months, and a map of the bus shelter locations is available at https://bit.ly/3ayuMev. In addition to the artists mentioned above, the posters feature work by Debra Ambush, Stephanie Firestone, Michelle Frazier, Deborah Grayson, Sarah Louise Hyde, Michael Hyman, Frederik Langhendries, Craig Moran, Doug Schulte, Michael G. Stewart, and G. Jackson Tanner.
IN PERSON CLASSES

VIRTUAL CLASSES

IN PERSON CLASSES

YOUTH

ENVIRONMENT
Hands on Gardening with Carla
Students will enjoy hands on experiences gardening. Students will create their own container gardens to take home. They will learn to germinate seeds, create new plants from cuttings, care for plants and harvest flowers, herbs, fruits and vegetables. Instructor: Carla Perlo
Takoma Park Middle School
7611 Piecy Branch Road
Outdoor Garden
7–13 years
Saturdays, 12:30–1:15 p.m.
June 5–June 26
Free

ADULT

FITNESS
Wellness Walk in The Park
Movement, mindfulness, and time in nature are all foundations for living a healthy lifestyle. Whether you want to lose weight, increase your activity, lower your stress, or just enjoy time outside, join us for weekly wellness walks in Sligo Creek Park. These low intensity walks, led by National Board-Certified Health and Wellness Coach Peter Lane, will include a variety of activities such as:
• Focusing on breath and the senses while walking in silence
• Time to reflect on your wellness goals and practical steps you can take
• Short tips to enhance everyday wellness
• Light stretching to wake our bodies and prepare for the walk
Building social connections and support for wellness
The wellness walk will begin at the corner of Maple Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway. The walk will take place on paved paths only. Walkers should bring a water bottle with them. Instructor: Peter Lane
Maple Ave & Sligo Creek Pkwy
16 & Older
Saturday, 8:30–9:30 a.m.
May 8–June 12
Free

SPORTS

Basketball Skills
This class will teach the fundamentals of the sport. Participants will be provided with excellent coaching and learn proper dribbling and shooting techniques. Please contact vincenct@takomaparkmd.gov for more information. All skill levels are welcome, and registration is required.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Free

TEENS

ART

In The Park
How fun drawing with black, white, and colored drawing materials, outside in two different parks, centrally located in Takoma Park, MD (Ed Wilhelm Field and the Plaza at old Philadelphia and Maple Ave). Subjects will include deep space and close-up landscape elements, botanical drawings, and floral studies. Beginning students welcome. The focus of the class is appropriate for students interested in developing a sketchbook for entry into the Visual Art Center at Albert Einstein High School. A list of optional materials will be sent to registered students, but students are also welcome to bring pencil, eraser, on sketch paper, or in a sketchbook. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman
Ed Wilhelm Field
2 Darwin Avenue
12–15 years
Tuesdays, 3:30–5 p.m.
May 11–June 15
Free

FITNESS

Mindful Movement for Teens
Mindfulness is paying attention in the present moment with kindness. Practicing it can help you be calmer and happier, gain mental focus for sports or performing, and learn to tame strong emotions. You will learn mindful listening, breathing, gratitude, and movement practices. Come find out why celebrities like LeBron James, Katy Perry, and Will Smith practice mindfulness. This is an in-person class. Registration is required via ActiveNet. For more information, contact Javonte McDonald at javontem@takomaparkmd.gov. Instructor: Jen Langer-Smith
Ed Wilhelm Field
2 Darwin Avenue
Grades 6–12
Tuesdays, through May 27
4–4:45 p.m.
Free

TEENS

ART

Be Creative Arts and Crafts with Carla
Work with recycled materials to create usable artwork. Projects will include creating with paper, card stock, plastic bottles, yarn, string, boxes and more. Supplies needed can be found in your home or can be picked up at the instructor’s home across from the Takoma Park Community Center. Students will learn to make block letters, origami, tie knots, braid and sew by hand. Instructor: Carla Perlo
Perlo
6–13 years
Saturdays, 12–12:30 p.m.
Free
VIRTUAL CLASSES

Class links available at takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc.

YOUTH

DANCE

Dance Youth Dance
We encourage you to join us as Ms. Charonne teaches a different dance technique weekly. Show off your skills in this fun and free class. Be sure to get to class a few minutes early. Clear the floor and get ready to move! Instructor: Charonne Butler
Free
5–12 years
Sundays, 11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

ART

Be Creative Arts and Crafts with Carla
Free
5–12 years
Saturdays, 1–2 p.m.

Free

ADULT

FITNESS

Commit 2 Fit
Get your yoga mat and water bottles and join us virtually on Saturday mornings at 10:30 AM for a fun and energized session to work out and get fit. Limited spaces available, registration required. For more information, please contact Lecia Monfort at leciam@takomaparkmd.gov.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Outdoors
55 and older
Tuesday, May 25
1–2
Free

SOCIAL

Teen Talk Tuesdays
Join Ms. Lecia at 5 p.m. for Teen Talk Tuesdays. Grab your seats, and we’ll bring the “tea.” Let’s talk about fashion, kids, questions, advice, 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, please contact Lecia Monfort at leciam@takomaparkmd.gov.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Outdoors
55 and older
Tuesdays, through June 8
5–6 p.m.
Free

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

Please note there is no restroom access or water fountains – be prepared! Outdoor classes will be weather dependent. Keep your eye on ActiveNet for more classes to be added!
**FITNESS**

**Fitness for Life**
This class is for anyone looking to reach their health, fitness and life goals. Whether you are an athlete, novice exerciser, or looking to enhance your current workout routine. Your coach will ensure you are performing the exercises in a safe and effective manner. This class is designed for you to work at your own pace. For more information contact Vincent Cain at 301-891-7289 or vincent@takomaparkmd.gov.

Free

18 and up

Thursdays, through May 27

11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Free

**Foundational Fitness & Training II (FFT II)**

FFT II is a fitness program for participants who have been or are currently involved in a fitness regimen. 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 rice or mat exercises, slow and static stretching, and instructional feedback. All equipment will need to be provided by the participants. FFT II will enhance tone/strength in all major muscle groups; increase stamina and flexibility.

Instructor: Michael Williams
18 and older

Saturday, 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: J-K Total Fitness
All Ages

Fridays

6–7 p.m.

Free

**Meditation, Mudras & Yoga**

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 use of mudras has been in almost all wisdom traditions throughout the world and notably in yoga. Yoga Asanas, or postures, will be broken down in class. Sun Light Qi Gong will be given to students. Instructor: Patrick Smith
18 and up

Wednesday, 10–11 a.m.

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. Instructor: KJ Total Fitness
16 and older

Saturday, 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: Teksheen Chettri
18 and older

Wednesday, 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Free

**MARTIAL ARTS**

**Karate Self Defense**

Karate promotes physical fitness, self-defense, leadership and cultural exchange through the practice of a traditional Okinawan karate style, Ishinryu (which means One Heart Way). This class will consist of warm-ups, stretching, and learning and practicing Ishinryu Karate upper and lower body basics. For more information, contact Vincent Cain at 301-891-7289 or vincent@takomaparkmd.gov.

16 and up

Monday through May 24

6–6:30 p.m.

Free

**WRESTLING WORKOUT**

This class will strengthen your muscles (including your heart), increase mobility in your joints, provide you with energy and improve your coordination. Your coach will educate, guide and assist you throughout the entire class to ensure you are performing movements safely and effectively. Equipment needed: Floor space, high back chair, mat and weights (optional).

Instructor: Nicole Porsch
18 years and older

One Day Workshop

Monday, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

May 10

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 practical homework. You will visit the Memory by Judith Harrington. Bring a notebook and pen to each session.

Instructor: Barbara Rosenblatt
16 and older

Wednesday 7–8 p.m.

Free

**ART**

**Pandamit Painting**

Receive instruction on how to paint with acrylics with topics such as colors, value 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 supplies. Money saving tips will be given to students. A list of the supplies suggested will be given to students. Instructor: Alice Sims
16 and older

Saturday, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Free

**ADULT**

**LET'S MOVÉ 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: J-K Total Fitness
All Ages

Fridays

6–7 p.m.

Free

**RECREATION**

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

**2021 The Return of Summer Camps!**

The COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc over the world last year, forcing the City of Takoma Park and many others to make the difficult decision to cancel all in-person summer camps for the 2020 summer season. The Recreation Department made this cancellation after carefully evaluating the state and local health guidelines related to COVID-19 and ongoing discussions with our local officials.

While we were successfully able to provide a free virtual summer program, allowing registered participants to have the opportunity to connect with friends and staff, we knew it wouldn't be able to take the place of a typical summer day camp. We are pleased to say that we will be returning to the building for in-person summer camps in 2021! We will offer three general recreation camps this summer (Camp Takoma [7500 Maple Ave.], New Ave Adventure Camp [7335 New Hampshire Ave] and Just Teens Camp [7500 Maple Ave]). Please note that it will not exactly mirror the structure of camps from previous years. It is important to remember that we are still in an ongoing pandemic and must continue to follow all health and safety guidelines to ensure a safe environment.

To ensure the proper social distancing, we will not offer contracted or specialty camps this summer.

Registered participants will be divided into cohorts (groups). There will be eight participants to one staff person in each cohort. We will still offer traditional camp games and activities (with socially distanced adjustments), such as yard games, ladder toss, ring toss, freeze dance, jeopardy, bingo and so much more! Participants must wear masks and have their temperatures taken at drop-off each morning. All field trips and swimming trips have been canceled this year.

Like previous years, we will provide before and after camp care. Before care will be 7–9 a.m., camps 9 a.m.–4 p.m., and after care 4–6 p.m. (except teen camp). Registration opens May 3 for current scholarship awardees and May 7 for all other City residents. Scholarship opportunities are available, and if you recently lost your job due to COVID, program fees may be waived. More information is available at takomaparkmd.gov/recreation.
The library building is closed, but we are 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 is not 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/tplibraryevents. 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.

Zoom Circle Time: Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Meeting ID is 995-4901-8825 and Meeting Password is 718851.

The Friends Book Club’s Next Book

By Tim Rahn, who leads the Friends Book Club

Viet Thanh Nguyen’s award-winning debut novel, The Sympathizer will be discussed by the Friends Book Group on Thursday, May 27 at 7:30 in an online meeting.

Most writing and other media about the Vietnam war and its aftermath are told from the point of view of an American, with Americans as the main characters. The Sympathizer breaks both these conventions by using a Vietnamese narrator who largely operates within a sphere of Vietnamese characters. To top it off, the narrator is a communist spy.

The narrator, whose name is never revealed, tells his story as a confession to an equally anonymous captor known as the Commandant. The story moves back and forth in time and place from the fall of Saigon to a grocery store in Los Angeles and a movie set in the Philippines.

The Committer

The Sympathizer is a spy thriller, a philosophical exploration, a coming-of-age tale, the story of what it’s like to be an immigrant, to be part-Asian, to be the illegitimate child of a forbidden liaison,” Sarah Lyall wrote in her New York Times book review “It’s about being forced to hide your identity under so many layers that you’re not sure who you are.”

Viet Thanh Nguyen teaches English, American studies, ethnicity, and comparative literature as a professor at the University of Southern California. He most recently published The Committer, a sequel to The Sympathizer. If you are interested in the discussion and you do not receive Friends Book Group announcements, write to fpmlbooks@gmail.com for information on how to join.

Copies of The Sympathizer can be borrowed from the library.
**Library Director**

From page 8

**Recreation**

From page 7

*Phone a Neighbor*

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

**Vital Living 55+ in Takoma Park**

Enjoy this new cable show series designed for Takoma Park residents 55+. Highlighting important topics, including interviews, presentations and performances. Vital Living is available weekdays 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays 8 a.m.; Thursdays 8:30 p.m., and Fridays 7 p.m. on Comcast & RCN Channel 13; Verizon Fios Channel 28. This schedule is subject to change because of the council or other live productions. Vital Living 55+ is also available on YouTube. For more information, please call Paula Lisowski at 240-687-4132 or email paula@takomaparkmd.gov

**Fitness**

Classic Foundationals Fitness and Training

The program is designed to enhance strength; decrease fall risk; 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 Tuesday and Thursday, 10-11 a.m. Free

**Enhance Your Fitness**

A great total body workout using low-impact, aerobic movement and gentle-resistance training. This class focuses on increasing strength, balance and flexibility through stretching, breathing, core training and proper posture alignment using standing and seated exercises including warm-up and cool down routines. Instructor: Adriene Buist 55 and older

Tuesdays, 8:45-9:45 a.m. Free

**Introduction to Hula Dance**

This class is a wonderful way to exercise using traditional dance movement. Learn about Hula history, tradition, expression, ritual and introductory choreography of steps and hand movements. No experience necessary. A fun six-week virtual class just in time for summer vacation! Instructor: Dawn “Aualii” Fretim 55 and older

Wednesdays, 2:15-3:15 p.m. Free

**BINGO IS COMING BACK!**

See page 6 for more information.

**Line Dance**

Line Dancing is 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

Wednesday, 11-12 p.m. Free

**“Zumba” Gold**

Designed for active older adults who are looking for a modified Zumba class that recreates the original moves they 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 and older

Fridays, 10-11 a.m. Free

**Zumba Gold**

Enjoy this new cable show series designed for Takoma Park neighbors for the online Dance On Festival! We can’t wait to meet you.

**Liberty Director**

From page 8

...it was intense. We stayed open through-out the process and had to find ways to be a study space despite the dulcet tones of jackhammers and nail guns. With the creative reorganization of available spac-es, improvised acoustic insulation, and constant communication with campus that always included profuse thanks for everyone’s patience, we made it through together. We came out the other end with a beautiful building that felt collectively owned by the Northern community. It became a gathering place, with spaces for students to read quietly or have research poster fairs, or even watch World Cup matches between classes.

When my husband was offered a spot in a STEM PhD program at Texas A&M University, we returned to Texas, and I came back to public libraries as a Branch Manager for the Bryan College Station Public Library System’s Larry J. Ringer Library branch, where – surprise! – they were getting ready for a major construction project.

I have immaculate timing! Ringer’s project was even more challenging than Northern’s because while we had planned on being open throughout a phased construc-tion project, the architects broke the news about three months into the project that we had to close the building for safety. We had two months to figure out how we were going to stay engaged with our pa-trons, continue programs, and circulate the collection effectively.

We got creative. We took a playful and improvisational tone on the “road” to other city facilities, partnered with the local school district to provide alternative book return locations, cross-trained staff to become temporary archi-vists at the local history center, and even did some new programs outside at the building site – like a stargazing night with our local astronomy club.

The design plans for the new Takoma Park Maryland Library are being finalized, and we are thinking outside the box to stay close with our community. I have a lot of practice in navigating this process, and the staff here are full of ideas and skilled in planning and logistics. In the short term, we are working to expand access to our collections and programs. In the long term, I hope to take what I learn about this unique community and shape our direction forward to complement it, with the help of our expert staff, useful technology, and a brand new, beautiful building.

As vaccinations continue and our op-tions to interact with you expand, the li-brary staff look forward to seeing you all again. They have missed you! And I can’t wait to meet you.

**Community Quality of Life Grant Recipient Dance Exchange Celebrates Aging with Free Online Festival**

Festivals are joyful spaces,” explains Judith Bauer, who will wear many hats during the upcoming Dance On Festival, brought to you by Dance Exchange, a non-profit dance organization based here in Takoma Park. Throughout the two-day festi-val, Judith will be dancer, choreographer, performer, facilitator, and panelist. The one thing she will not be? Shy about her experience as an octogenarian. “For me it feels like a victory to have aging celebrated as a time of joy rather than a time of loss.”

This spirit of celebration will ring true throughout the Dance On Festival, happen-ing Friday, May 14 and Saturday, May 15. With virtual performances, dance classes, workshops, and panel discussions, the free online festival will celebrate aging with dance, creativity, and connection.

“With all that this year has held,” explained Cassie Meador, co-creative director of the Dance On Festival and Executive Artistic Director at Dance Exchange, “we have been so inspired by the incred-i-ble creativity and resilience of the artists whose work contributes to the Festival.” Among the participating organizations are Kanfournan West African Dance Company, Arts for the Aging, and TimeSlips as well as creative aging leaders including Gay Hanna, Bruce Framkel, Anne Basting, and Dance Exchange’s Founder Liz Lerman.

During the Festival Kick Off on Friday, May 14, Dance Exchange will celebrate its 49th anniversary with commissioned performances by artists from across Dance Ex-change’s history, ranging in age from 29 to 86. The following day, Saturday May 15, attendees can choose to attend classes in West African dance, Flamenco, or modern dance; workshops with Dance Exchange and other artists and organizations working in creative aging; or panels and discus-sions that celebrate the stories of older adults dancing on.

Additionally, Dance Exchange Resident Artist Corina Iona Dalzell and Nancy Hav-lik of Arts for the Aging are inviting Festi-val attendees to participate in the making of their new commissioned work premier-ing later this year. Drawing inspiration from postcards and recorded interviews with local residents, Corina and Nancy will lead a workshop that celebrates what it means to move through change in Takoma Park. Read more about the project and submit your own postcard at www.danceexchange.org/danceontakomapark.

The Dance On Festival is the culmi-nation of a year spent expanding Dance Exchange’s creative aging programming in and beyond Takoma Park—albeit com-pletely online because of the pandemic. Cassie noted, “Our partnership with the City of Takoma Park has made it possible to offer vital ways for older adults to stay connected, build community, and create meaning across generations during this challenging time.”

Dance Exchange’s programming includes a free weekly online class for older adults, a creative aging workforce develop-ment program for Maryland-based artists, a new video series for older adults and caregivers called Movement Moments—and now, the Dance On Festival! “We can’t wait to share this festival,” Cassie added, “and to dance on with our Takoma Park community!”

To join Dance Exchange and your Takoma Park neighbors for the online Dance On Festival, register for free at www.danceexchange.org/dance-on-festival.
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.

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 year, the Takoma Park Independence Day Committee has decided not to have a traditional 4th of July parade in 2021. Additionally, there will not be an evening fireworks show.

The committee is assessing what type of celebration might be possible. We are exploring all potential options. It will 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 Saturday, 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.

Pet Preparedness

As we move into warmer weather and potential for severe storms, we need to remember our pets in the event of an emergency. Like other members of the family, our pets have special needs too. If you leave your pets behind, they may be lost, injured – or worse. Never leave a pet chained outdoors or out in the severe weather, such as cold or heat. Indoor pets are at risk as well. Some options for planning the care of your pets include:

• Create a buddy system in case you are not home. Ask a trusted neighbor to check on your animals.
• Identify shelters. For public health reasons, many emergency shelters cannot accept pets. During a disaster, you can call 311 or listen to the news to find out which shelters will accept pets.
• Find pet friendly hotels (www.gopetfriendly.com) along your evacuation route and keep a list in your pet’s emergency kit.
• Locate boarding facilities or animal shelters near your evacuation shelter.
• Consider an out-of-town friend or relative.
• Locate a veterinarian or animal hospital in the area where you may be seeking temporary shelter just in case your pet needs medical care.
• Add the contact information to your emergency kit.
• Have your pet microchipped and make sure that you not only keep your address and phone number up to date, but that you also include contact information for an emergency contact outside of your immediate area.
• Call your local emergency management office, animal shelter or animal control office to get local advice and information.

• Have the proper size carrying case or cage for your pet.

If you are unable to return to your home right away, you may need to board your pet. Find out where pet boarding facilities are located.

Most boarding kennels, veterinarians and animal shelters will need your pet’s medical records to make sure all vaccinations are current.

Gather supplies for your pet, food, cage, medicine, leash, favorite toy, and bedding are good items to take with you to a shelter.

If you have a picture of you and your pet to help with reconnecting you and your pet.

If you have no alternative but to leave your pet at home, there are some precautions you must take, but remember that leaving your pet at home alone can place your animal in great danger!

Remember, during a disaster what is good for you is good for your pet, so get them ready today.

Takoma Park Safe Routes to School 5K (TKPK5K)

Plans are in the works for a Virtual TKPK5K! Since 2009, the TKPK5K has been held on the first Sunday in May (except for 2020). This year you can run any route at any time this month. Every precaution will be in place to ensure the safety of our community. Serious racers, first-time 5Kers, runners of all ages and abilities and friends and family from all over the world can run with us! Visit the TKPK5K page on the City website for more information. This is going to be fun!

INVASIVE VINES

From page 3

owners to encourage them to eradicate the vines themselves using quick, simple methods. Or property owners can elect to have volunteers do it for them for free. By autumn, the goal is to have rescued all 4,850 trees in the city.

Surprisingly, CCAN could find no other survey like this anywhere else in the United States. The simple act of creating a baseline inventory of infested trees – by walking and making a visual inspection – just has not been done in any other city or county. It seems doubly odd since it was not a difficult task for Jesse Buff to conduct the survey, taking notes on his smart phone while spending 60 hours walking over a two-week period.

CCAN hopes the Takoma Park survey and volunteer system will become a model for other jurisdictions nationwide to save affected trees. CCAN is also registered to offer Montgomery County students community service hours for any work saving trees, so come on out and bring the whole family on Saturday mornings at 8:30. Let’s make tree history.
A new coffee shop joins the neighborhood
By Taylor Dibbert

Lost Sock: Something that you look for in the morning, like a good cup of coffee. A new coffee shop has come to the Takoma community. Located in the Takoma Theatre on 4th Street, Lost Sock Roasters opened its café in Takoma, DC on February 1. Nico Cabrera and Jeff Yerxa are its founders. The two became friends as undergraduates at American University. They were roommates from 2013 to 2019 and created Lost Sock in 2015.

“Lost Sock was started by Cohen, who wanted to do something. We have lost our café and our café is now open,” Yerxa said. “We have lost our café and they have decided to open a café. That’s our traditional thing,” he said.

Cabrera and Yerxa still have a roastery, which is not open to the public, on Kennedy Street in DC. They are now balancing selling coffee wholesale while managing a café, including staff. This is a small batch roastery; ten pounds of coffee are roasted at a time. In that context, keeping up with demand is a challenge. Even over a year into the pandemic, the two had become increasingly interested in the food and beverage industry. Through friendship and passion, a roastery was born. When they first got going, the focus was on coffee importers that shared his and Cabrera’s values. From the beginning they were looking for quality and transparency (including how much money farmers are making).

The Lost Sock team is currently comprised of eight people. In addition to coffee, the café offers pastries, empanadas, sandwiches, and toast. “When we saw the Takoma theater, we were blown away and couldn’t pass on the opportunity,” Yerxa said.

According to him, most people in the food and beverage industry might open a café and then, if it’s successful, see the opportunity of roasting one’s own coffee. He and Cabrera essentially went in the opposite direction. Over the years, the duo has remained cognizant about making coffee ethically. “We are sourcing some really interesting coffees, while trying to do our best in terms of paying farmers their fair share,” Cabrera noted. “We’re just trying to do coffee right.”

Quite unsurprisingly, opening a coffee shop during a pandemic has come with a range of challenges. There have been an inordinate number of delays, as well as operational issues to consider. For example, only four customers are allowed in the store at a time. Everything is to go. Staff wear gloves and clean regularly, they try to maintain social distancing whenever possible. “All of the operational changes are fine, but the most challenging part is not allowing our customers to enjoy the space for very long,” Cabrera said.

He also said that the team wants to “become more part of the community and share a meal, but because of the pandemic, we have to keep our employees and community safe” by remaining socially distant.

Takoma Parkers (and others) have welcomed the store’s opening. The Takoma community has been extremely supportive. Julia Hanet-Violan, a Takoma Park resident, is a big fan. She’s excited for more local business to come to the Takoma area and had enjoyed drinking Lost Sock coffee at other places. “When I heard that Lost Sock was going to open up a shop in Takoma, I was stoked,” she said.

The shop is open Tuesday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday, it is open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. “With time, we plan on extending our hours, rolling out online ordering, having our [Americans with Disabilities Act] ADA access ramp installed . . . and having outdoor seating,” Cabrera said. “We are just getting used to our new space and figuring out the best process without compromising quality.”

Coffee. Community. Care. Adhering to ethics and standards. Paying farmers and coffee growers fairly. Focusing on sustainability. These are certainly ideas that Takoma Parkers of all stripes can get behind. This new coffee shop already looks like a terrific addition to a food and drink scene that just keeps getting better.

Takoma Bicycle Going in High Gear
By Sean Gossard

When the pandemic began last year, many were looking for ways to keep active while staying socially distanced. And, for many of them, taking up bicycling as a hobby seemed to be the perfect way to do so.

“It seems like it was the appropriate socially distant activity to do while gyms and other things are so restricted,” said Bruce Sawtelle, co-owner of Takoma Bicycle. “It’s been a great option for people.”

Sawtelle said that since March 2020, his shop has seen an explosion in demand for bicycles along with repairs, sometimes leaving him with little inventory or time to get to all the maintenance needs. “We’ve seen this unusual surge in the interest in bikes and bike riding,” he said. “For us as a bike shop, it’s an incredible surge for demand for bike repairs and new bikes at the same time.”

And, according to Sawtelle, bikes have not been the only market to see surges in demand since the pandemic began last year. “Other outdoor activities have seen a similar surge along with inventory and supply problems,” he said. “A lady who worked at a running store said this winter they didn’t have any running tights and had so many disappointed customers.”

Ahead of National Bike Month in May, Sawtelle noted there are still plenty of ways to get a bike if you are interested, including by swinging by his shop at 7030 Carroll Ave. Most of the manufacturers have bike locators on their websites, he said, “so we are seeing people from all over, driving several hours sometimes to buy a bike—people from West Virginia, Pennsylvania. People do a lot of online searching and track down the bikes they want. It takes a little bit of work. Used to be you had to call every bike shop, now it’s right there.”

Even over a year into the pandemic, sales and need for repairs remain strong. “In March and April, we’ve had a tremendous interest in people buying bikes,” Sawtelle said. “It’s been a great time to be in the bike business, especially seeing so many people loving or falling back in love with cycling.”

But, he says, things could be better as inventory has been difficult to keep up with the increased demand. “The selection isn’t what we usually like to have,” he said, so the situation is that the bikes we’re receiving now we ordered many months ago, and we had to guess back then what we thought would be popular bikes now.

Our focus has been bikes for beginners and casual riders. And we have a line of children’s bikes.”

As for keeping safe on the streets while out biking, for Sawtelle making sure bicyclists are seen is the biggest key. “We sell a lot of the flashing lights,” he said. “One of our helmets has a light; that’s a newer safety accessory. Visibility is so important.”

For National Bike Month, Sawtelle doesn’t have anything specific planned due to the pandemic, but will be participating in Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 21. Takoma Bicycle will be one of three pitstops in Takoma Park, along with the Gazebo downtown (located at 7035 Carroll Avenue) and the Sligo Creek Trail Pit Stop.

“We sponsor a bike to work pitstop, that’s our traditional thing,” he said. “It’s a little more limited. We’ve mostly a t-shirt pick-up point this year. We’ve just been super busy and fixing a lot of bikes for people and getting people riding.”

Bicycling has become a popular way to stay fit and remain socially distant. And, according to Sawtelle, bikes have become a great option for people.”

Takoma Bicycle will be hosting a pit stop for Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 21.

Takoma Parkers of all stripes can get behind. This new coffee shop already looks like a terrific addition to a food and drink scene that just keeps getting better.
SHARE IDEAS
Attend virtual City Council meetings!

Wednesday, May 12, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 19, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 26, 7:30 p.m.
City council Regular Meeting

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Takoma Park Safe Routes to School 5K (TPKPS5K)
Plans are in the works for a Virtual TPKPS5K! Since 2009, the TPKPS5K has been held on the first Sunday in May (except for 2020). This year you can run any route at any time this month. Every precaution will be in place to ensure the safety of our community.

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.

Sunlight 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 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Zumba 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.

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

May 2021 Calendar

We have been using this space to feature city resources and provide important updates on city services. We will continue to do, and we will provide updates as more in-person events become feasible. In the meantime, let us know if you have a virtual, or in-person, non-profit 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 June issue is May 14 and the newsletter will be distributed beginning May 31. To submit virtual calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov.

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

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

Adult Play Day

Adults deserve to play too! Join us in kicking off the summer with an evening of virtual play!

WHEN: SATURDAY JUNE 5 | 7-10 PM EST
WHERE: ZOOM, FROM ANYWHERE!

Follow us on Social Media
@lets.play.america | @america_plays | Let’s Play America

For More Information and to Sign Up for Activities Please Visit: www.letsplayamerica.org

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

You’re Invited!

Save The Date

City Manager
Suzanne Ludlow
Retirement Celebration

What a journey it has been!

Friday, June 18
12 - 3pm
Ed Wilhelm Field
Takoma-Piney Branch Local Park
Behind Piney Branch Elementary School

More Information to follow