



WHAT'S NEW?

New Theater Company in Town
Details, page 13

So Many Memories: Love Continues
Details, page 12

FY22 Community Grants Application Opening
Details, page 4


City Offices & Facilities Closed
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
Sunday, Jan. 17 - Monday, Jan. 18

Trash/Recycling Collection
No yard waste collection
Monday, Jan. 18

 **Look for this icon throughout this issue**
See page 14

Oh what a year!


It would be easy to focus on the many public events and other activities that didn't happen in 2020. But a lot did happen because City residents and staff pulled together as a community. Let's take a photographic look back at some of moments to remember from last year.



January

Members of the Takoma Park Police Department brave the chilly waters of the Chesapeake in support of the Maryland Special Olympics (Jan. 24).

YEAR IN REVIEW □ Page 7



Vital Living launch: City TV debuts new show for seniors

Vital Living 55+ in Takoma Park is a new monthly cable show for Takoma Park residents, 55 and older. Hosted by Seniors Program Manager Paula Lazowski, each show will highlight an important topic as well as share presentations and performances. Vital Living 55 Plus was developed through a partnership between City TV and the Takoma Park Recreation Department to reach out to seniors in the community. "The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for community-based organizations to maintain the provision of services and programs for engaging and supporting older adults during this difficult time," Lazowski noted while introducing the first episode.

Social Isolation – and outreach to older adults in Takoma Park – is the main topic of the first show, which presents informative interviews with Antonio DeVaul, Chief, Takoma Park Police Department, and Jessica Clarke, Deputy City Manager. Viewers can also enjoy a moment of inspiration with Kathleen O'Toole, Poet Laureate for the City of Takoma Park, and watch an art presentation by Alice Sims, Art for the People, and create the project themselves.

In his interview, Chief DeVaul highlighted the TPPD's CARE program. "The CARE program is a collaboration between the police department and our residents the residents in the city," he explained. "Whether they're elderly, they're disabled, or they're recovering from surgeries, [residents] can sign up through the police department for a program that will check on them on a daily basis."

"The way it works is the resident would during a prescribed time call into the police department and let the police department know they were okay...If the person does not contact the police department, we will reach out to that person to make sure they're okay," he continued. "If

VITAL LIVING □ Page 3

A message from Mayor Stewart: We are here for each other

We are in the eleventh month of the uncertainty and enormity of the COVID-19 crisis. While a vaccine is being administered, we continue to witness the impact the virus is having every day on our families, friends, neighbors, and local businesses.

More than ever since this crisis began, we need to come together as a community to support and help each other. This starts with wearing a mask when in public. Also, stay up to date on the Montgomery County public health guidelines on gatherings.



Mayor Kate Stewart

As we have been over the last eleven months, the City is here for all of you and will continue to be here. I am deeply appreciative of all the support, patience, and compassion as we face this crisis together. Our City staff continues to work around the clock to make sure our government keeps running and residents, especially those most vulnerable, are being cared for. We are working in coordination with county, state, and regional

MAYOR'S MESSAGE □ Page 3

Information and Resources: Covid19
takomaparkmd.gov

Questions, Comments and Suggestions
askus@takomaparkmd.gov

#TogetherTKPK

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7500 Maple Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912

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DOCKET

City Council & Committee Calendar

REMOTE/VIRTUAL MEETINGS CONTINUE

We expect that meetings will continue to take place in a remote/virtual format into the new year. 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 or U.S. mail will be shared with the full Council.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS IN JANUARY

The City Council will be on recess until Wednesday, January 13.

- Wednesday, January 13, 7:30 p.m., City Council Regular Meeting
- Wednesday, January 20 (Inauguration Day - the City Council will not meet.)
- Thursday, January 21, 6 p.m., City Council Closed Session
- Thursday, January 21, 7:30 p.m., City Council Regular Meeting
- Wednesday, January 27, 7:30 p.m., City Council Regular Meeting

CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES RETREAT

Saturday, January 16, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The City Council will hold a 2021 Priorities Retreat (remote/virtual) on Saturday, January 16, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The retreat may be observed on Zoom.

CITY BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, January 14, 7 p.m.

COMPLETE SAFE STREETS COMMITTEE

January meeting TBA. Check the calendar.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 28, 7 p.m.

FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, January 12, 6:30 p.m.

GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 12, 6:30 p.m.

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 12, 7:30 p.m.

PARKING MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

January meeting TBA. Check the calendar.

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

January meeting TBA. Check the calendar.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 21, 7 p.m.

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, January 12, 6:30 p.m.

YOUTH COUNCIL

Sunday, January 17, 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 31, 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

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

On **December 2, 2020**, the City Council adopted **Resolution 2020-28** extending the use of sidewalks, on-street parking and parking lots to assist Takoma Park's businesses, employees, and residents by creating safe spaces for outdoor dining and curbside pickup. The resolution specifically continues the closure of the northbound lane of Laurel Avenue. The resolution sunsets on September 30, 2021 when the Council may consider a new resolution based on information available at the time. By adoption of **Resolution 2020-29**, the Council removed the Housing and Community Development Director position from the budget hold list, thus allowing the City Manager to proceed with advertising and filling the position.

Two ordinances were adopted on **December 2, 2020**. **Ordinance 2020-32** authorized the City Manager to sign a contract with LINK associates for facilitation services for the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force. The contract amount is \$15,000 per month for an expected six months of service. **Ordinance 2020-33** approved a contract award to The Novak Consulting Group/Raftelis for City Manager recruitment services. The base contract award is for \$24,900.

The City Council authorized the architect and City staff to proceed with construction document preparation, permit application preparation, and competitive bidding for a replacement Library, by **Resolution 2020-30**, on **December 9, 2020**. (Councilmember Smith abstained.) Work is to continue on modifications related to energy

efficiency and green design, but within limitations of the budget, site constraints, time constraints, and other design considerations. Possible options to preserve mature trees are to be explored as is relocation of the "Children's Garden" on or near the Community Center property. The City Council is to receive monthly progress updates on the Library project.

Also, on **December 9, 2020**, the Council set its winter recess to begin on December 10 and end on January 12, 2021 by **Resolution 2020-31**. By adoption of **Resolution 2020-32**, the City Council appointed Keli Cochran (Ward 6) and Mark Swartz (Ward 1) to the Grants Review Committee. The Council authorized the extension of emergency regulations concerning Title 12, Trees and Vegetation, by **Resolution 2020-33**.

Notice of Final Administrative Regulations for Implementation of the Tree Ordinance

Draft Administrative Regulations to implement the City's Tree Ordinance, as revised via City Council Ordinance 2020-22, were advertised for public comment in the November Issue of the Newsletter. The two regulations, "Fees for Tree Impact Assessments, Tree Removals and Tree Protection Plans, and Fees in Lieu of Planting" and "Noxious Growths and Undesirable Trees" were available for review through December 4. No substantive comments were received related to the regulation regarding fees. There were several comments received regarding the plants or trees regarded as noxious or undesirable and the process of adding or removing species from the lists. Final administrative regulations are posted at takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/tree-ordinance-review-tree-canopy-goal. Thank you to those who provided comments!



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.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

■ From page 1

groups, as well as nonprofits because we cannot do this alone.

When the crisis first began, we worked on getting reliable testing in our community and we have achieved that. Every Wednesday and Saturday, we have no appointment necessary for free COVID-19 testing at the Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Avenue), 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Addressing food insecurity is also one of our top priorities. We have been working with non-profits to get food to those in need. Grayce Wiggins, our Housing Manager, sits on the Montgomery County Food Council to assist in the coordinating of food distribution.

We also know residents need assistance paying their rents and/or condo fees, receiving unemployment benefits, and

much more. Our City staff continues to provide one-on-one support. Personally, I have seen them in action late at night and on the weekends. Together we have been on the phone, talking with building managers and owners to ensure buildings are properly maintained during the pandemic and assisting residents with accurate information in different languages. .

City staff continues to keep updating the Information and Resources: COVID-19 page where you can get information about:

- City facilities and services
- Resources including where to get masks, food distribution, and much more.
- Information and resources for businesses
- Things to do
- And More!

There are also recommendations on how you can support local organizations

and businesses during this time. Check back frequently because we are constantly adding and updating the information.

To stay connected with the City, please be sure you are signed up for Takoma Park Alerts (very important) and the Takoma Insider (weekly e-newsletter).

Facing this crisis together also requires taking time to take care of yourself. As we begin the New Year and continue to check-in and care for others in our community, make sure you are also checking-in and caring for yourself. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides great resources. Here are some ways they suggest you can support yourself:

- **Take breaks from watching**, reading, or listening to news stories, including social media. Hearing about the pandemic repeatedly can be upsetting.
- **Take care of your body.** Take deep breaths, stretch, or meditate. Try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals, exercise regularly, get plenty of sleep, and avoid alcohol and drugs.

- **Make time to unwind.** Try to do some other activities you enjoy.

- **Connect with others.** Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling.

When my family observed Advent, each Sunday evening in the weeks leading up to Christmas, we lit a candle in our Advent wreath. When my children were younger, they wrote this poem that we recited when lighting the candles each week:

- On the 1st week I have hope.
- On the 2nd week I have love.
- On the 3rd week I have joy.
- On the 4th week, I wish for peace for all, through winter, spring, summer, and fall.

I wish you all hope, love, joy, and peace for the coming year.

A slightly different version of this article appeared on the City's website (December 18, 2020): takomaparkmd.gov/news-alert/we-are-here-for-each-other.

VITAL LIVING

■ From page 1

we're unable to make contact, we will respond out to ascertain if they are okay... We've been able to have positive interactions with our elderly folks." Chief DeVaul stressed that TTPD officers wear masks during check-ins, and the department is very cognizant of keeping older residents safe.

During her interview, Deputy City Manager Jessica Clarke echoed this concern for the community's senior residents and encouraged them to contact the City for assistance. "If you call the City's main line, so that's 301-891-7100, we can direct you to any city service that you need [and] answer any questions that you have," she said. "And if there are any services for seniors that the city is not currently providing, please call that number to let us know, and we'll work with our staff to try to provide it."

Clarke also noted that all City Council hearings being virtual has made it easier for residents to participate and offer their input: "That's actually been one way that I would say the pandemic has helped the city. A lot more people are able to engage more easily in our community input process around council hearings." She emphasized that even "if you struggle with Zoom, you can still call in, so you don't necessarily have to use video."

You will learn all this and more in the premiere episode, so tune in and stay engaged! Vital Living will be available Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m.; Wednesdays at 8 a.m.; Thursdays 8:30 p.m., and Fridays 7 p.m. on Comcast and RCN: Channel 13 /Verizon Fios: Channel 28 (This schedule is always subject to change because of the council or other live productions). The program is also available through YouTube.



City selects Public Safety Task Force facilitation team

The City of Takoma Park recently issued a request for proposals (RFP) to solicit the services of a facilitator or facilitator team to manage the City's Public Safety Task Force, established by City Council Resolution 2020-21. This task force will reimagine the structure and role of public safety in Takoma Park through engaged discussions and recommend changes to public safety policies and funding.

After a review of proposals and team interviews, the City has selected the joint facilitation team of LINK Strategic Partners (LINK) and Expectant Advisory LLC. LINK is a social impact strategic communications and community engagement firm with demonstrated commitment to community and civic-based work for causes that matter. Expectant Advisory LLC is a Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) led consultancy with experience facilitating dynamic discussions across the United States and around the world.

Considering the sensitive nature of the topics the Public Safety Task Force will address, the City selected a partner able to demonstrate the capacity for and experience with strategic planning, racial equity, and community-building efforts across the country. This year alone, LINK and Expectant Advisory have convened national action-oriented discussions on equity, facilitated discussions on public safety reform, and have worked with partners to apply a Black history and culture lens to the history of policing.

Additionally, it was critically im-



portant that the project team selected was diverse and reflected the diversity of our community. LINK's organization reflects the pluralistic, multi-ethnic composition of not only Takoma Park, but the United States of America. LINK's youngest employee is 17 years old, and the most senior staff member is 92. More than half of LINK's staff is female, and nearly 70 percent are people of color. This project will be led by a diverse group of facilitators, who can provide context and framing for a discussion and connect with the communities with whom the City will engage as part of this process.

Given that the City of Takoma Park has long been a leader in inclusive approaches to policies and engagement, we are honored to partner with LINK and its partner Expectant Advisory LLC as they help us reimagine public safety. For more information, visit linksp.com or follow the company on Facebook and Twitter on @LINKstrategic or Instagram @linkstrategic.

Important City Department Phone Numbers

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



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Apryl Motley
Assistant: Sean Gossard
www.takomaparkmd.gov
Vol. 60, No. 1

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

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

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.



BUILDING COMMUNITY

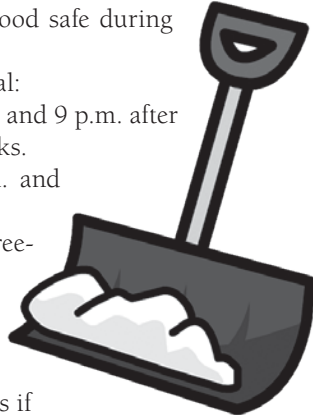
Sidewalk Safety and Snowfall

Do your part to keep the sidewalks in your neighborhood safe during inclement weather.

The City has specific regulations regarding snow removal:

- Residents have until noon following a night of snowfall, and 9 p.m. after a day of snowfall, to remove snow and ice from sidewalks.
- Businesses must keep sidewalks clear between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- The full width of the sidewalk, or a minimum of a three-foot-wide path, must be clear.
- You may not shovel snow into the street.
- Rock salt is prohibited on sidewalks and within 10 feet of trees.

After your sidewalk is done, reach out and ask neighbors if they need assistance with keeping their sidewalks clear.



City of Takoma Park FY22 Community Grants Application Opening This Month

The Community Grants Program funds projects that provide greater access to the arts, sciences, technology, economic development, and engineering in Takoma Park. This grant program is open to non-profit organizations and business associations and provides up to \$10,000 in financial support. Although not required, the City is encouraging applications for programs that connect arts and sciences with skills that promote job-readiness for Takoma Park residents.

The online application will open on January 19, 2021, and close March 11, 2021. Interested parties should register for a free account on the Community Grants page found at takomaparkmd.gov/grants. Previous online applicants will be notified automatically.

To see if your organization is eligible for funding, visit takomaparkmd.gov.



takomaparkmd.gov/grants to review our guidelines on the Community Grants Page. For more information, please contact the City of Takoma Park's Housing and Community Development Department at 240-315-6503 or email Jennifer Hale, Grants Coordinator, at jenniferh@takomaparkmd.gov.

You may also attend our Community Grants Information Open House on Thursday, February 4, 2021, from 5-7 p.m. on Zoom. To register for this information session, email grants@takomaparkmd.gov.

Employment Assistance

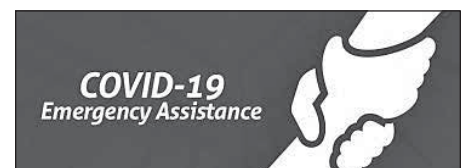
The City of Takoma Park has partnered with WorkSource Montgomery to provide job coaches to assist Takoma Park residents with resume preparation, one-on-one



consultations, and job searches. You can register by contacting the City's Housing Department at 301-891-7222 or emailing housing@takomaparkmd.gov.

Don't Wait To Get Help

The City of Takoma Park can help City residents in need of emergency assistance with housing matters (eviction and foreclosure), utility disconnections, food insecurity, prescription assistance, and other emergency needs. For more information, contact the De-



partment of Housing and Community Development at 301-891-7222 or email housing@takomaparkmd.gov.

Montgomery County and HIP Launch New Home Sharing Program

On January 5, 2021, the Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP), a nonprofit housing developer and counseling agency, launched a Home Sharing Program in Montgomery County. The goal is 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. The homeowners must live in the home full-time to participate.

HIP's Montgomery County Home Sharing Program is supported by Montgomery County's Department of Health & Human Services, and uses Silvernest.com to match homeowners with compatible home seekers. No housing subsidies are available.

Takoma Park homeowners who wish to



participate in this program must also comply with the appropriate city registration and county licensing requirements. For room rentals or shared spaces, owners must register the property as an Owner Occupied Group House. For ADUs, owners must complete

the County's ADU process and also maintain an active rental housing license issued by the City of Takoma Park. More information about the rental licensing program is available on the City's website or by contacting Patti Mallin, Licensing Specialist, at 240-315-6721 or pattim@takomaparkmd.gov.

More information about the Home Sharing Program is available at www.HIPhomes.org/home-sharing or contact Michelle Higgs, program coordinator, at 301-857-4273 or homeshare@hiphomes.org.

Free Tax Preparation Services

The Community Action Agency's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is currently using a virtual tax preparation model during the COVID-19 emergency. Virtual VITA allows residents to use an online platform to securely upload their tax documents and have their taxes prepared for free by a certified tax preparer. No in-person contact is required, allowing for the health and safety of staff and community members to be maintained.

The VITA program is scheduling virtual appointments now for the prior year (2018) amended taxes, as well as 2019 taxes. VITA provides free filing service for federal and state taxes. They also help with completing taxes for individuals with Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITIN). Montgomery County residents with household incomes of \$57,000 or less may call 240-777-1123 to schedule an appointment.



SNAP-UP Food Benefits Today

You can apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly known as Food Stamps) online at <https://mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us> by mail or fax. If you apply online, please capture and retain the control number provided (a nine-digit number starting with the letter "S") so that you may track your application until you are



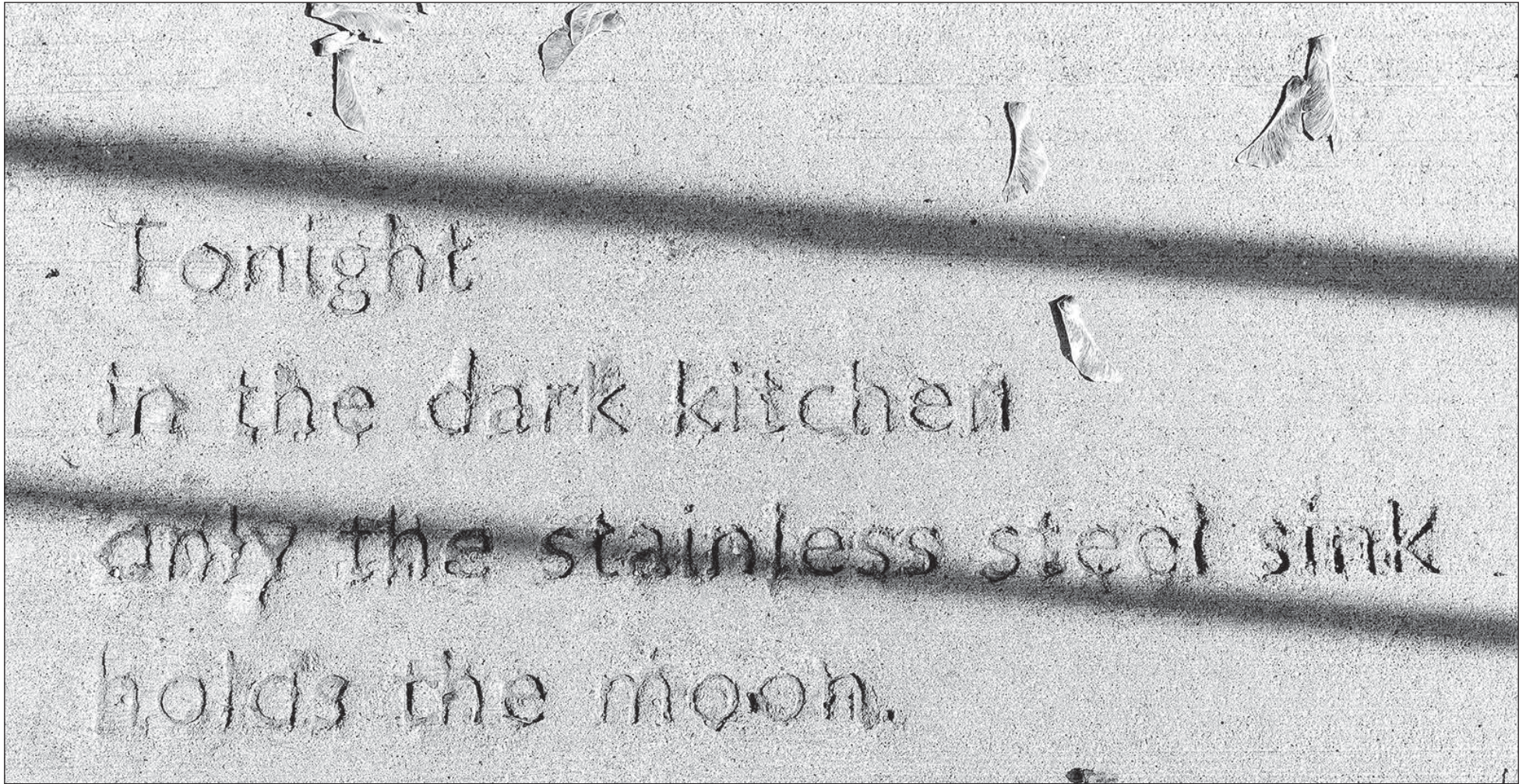
contacted by a staff member to complete the interview and application evaluation process.

Montgomery County DHHS - Silver Spring Center
240-777-3100

Montgomery County DHHS - TESS Center
240-773-8260

Maryland Hunger Solutions
1-866-821-5552

Sidewalk Poetry Contest Needs Your Poems



Takoma Park residents will have a chance to see their own poetry imprinted in concrete sidewalks around the city in a new public art project that will harness the creativity of local residents.

Sidewalk poetry started in 2008 when artist Marcus Young proposed the project while he was working with Public Art Saint Paul, a nonprofit that organizes public art projects with the City of Saint Paul, Minn. Since then, other cities across the country have developed their own programs, and the City of Takoma Park's Arts and Humanities Division is bringing sidewalk poetry here.

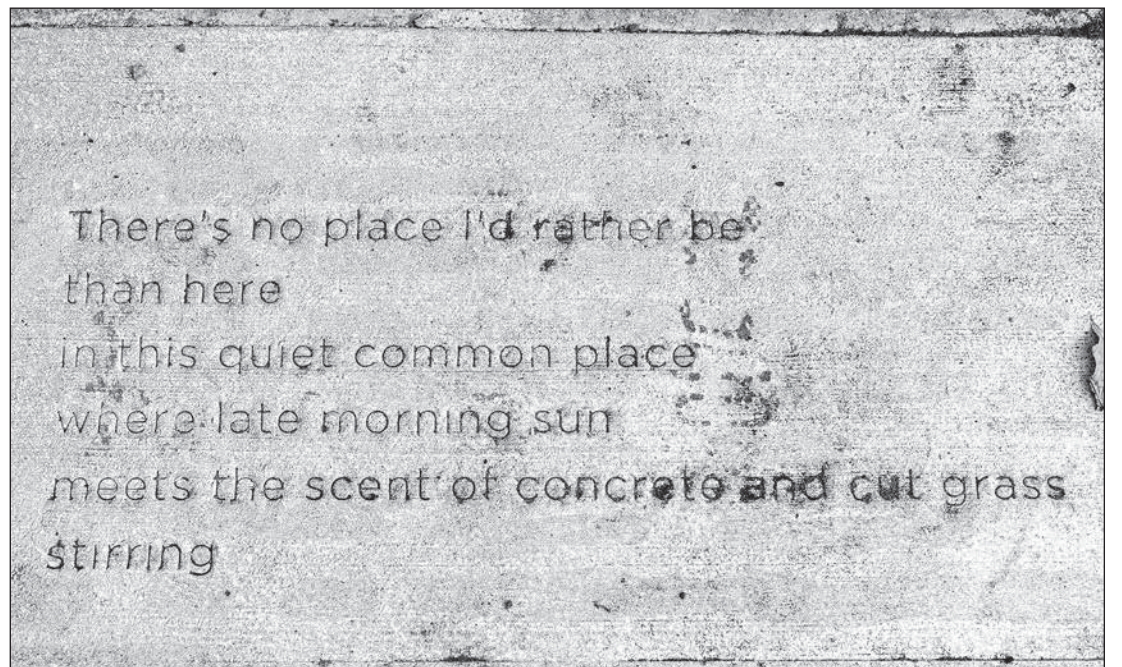
"We like to organize unusual public art projects, which inspire people or get them involved," Arts and Humanities Division

Coordinator Brendan Smith said. "We put a 17-foot-tall, crocheted octopus on top of the local clock tower, and we installed a public piano in the downtown gazebo that was played by hundreds of people. This is another way for residents to be engaged by sharing their poems with everyone who looks down while walking around Takoma Park."

A free contest, which will begin this month, will allow Takoma Park residents to submit one or two short original poems. A small number of poems will be chosen by a diverse selection committee, including Takoma Park Poet Laureate Kathleen O'Toole and poets Bernardine "Dine" Watson and Jose Vladimir Monge, who have read their work as part of the City of Takoma Park's *Third Thursday Poetry* reading series.

"I know we have a lot of creative souls in Takoma Park," O'Toole said. "Poetry can be a little intimidating, but with a little playful encouragement, many are willing to try. I'm planning some poetry workshops with groups of students and seniors, so I hope that will encourage them to submit their poetry for the contest."

Poems may be submitted in English or Spanish, and children can enter the con-



Poetry featured in the Public Art Saint Paul sidewalk poetry project

Photos: Thaiphy Phan Quang

TAKOMA PARK ARTS ONLINE

Arts events at the Takoma Park Community Center have been postponed due to coronavirus restrictions, so the *Takoma Park Arts* cultural series has moved online with film screenings, concerts, poetry readings, and dance and theater performances. You can find more details and sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at takomaparkmd.gov/arts.

test with the consent of their guardians. More details will be available on the City's website at takomaparkmd.gov/arts, and the submission deadline is Feb. 28, 2021. The contest also will be promoted through the City's social media channels.

During the past 12 years, Public Art Saint Paul has selected 63 poems from residents, which have been stamped more than 1,000 times in new sidewalks. "There has been overwhelming support from St. Paul residents," said Colleen Sheehy, president and executive director

of Public Art Saint Paul. "They love seeing poems in sidewalks in their neighborhoods and entering their own poems in our contests."

The poems selected in the Takoma Park contest will be imprinted across the city as new sidewalks are built or existing sidewalks are repaired.

"Public art meets us where we live and helps build community spirit," O'Toole said. "Anything we can do to bring art into the daily lives of people of all ages and backgrounds is a plus."



When playtime goes virtual

By Sean Gossard

As the nation continues to quarantine amid a global pandemic, there has not been a more important time to take care of your physical and mental well-being by taking a deep breath, stepping back and just playing around.

That's the mindset Pat Rumbaugh, aka The Play Lady, has been living her whole life. In 2009, Rumbaugh began advocating in Takoma Park for both adults and children to take the time out of their busy days to just play. Her organization, Let's Play America (letsplayamerica.org), has since been putting on annual play days in summer and winter for people to come together and just play, be it Simon Says, tag or doing a few arts & crafts.

But during a pandemic, when in-person play isn't safe, how do you help people keep a positive attitude while conforming to pandemic safety protocols? The solution for Rumbaugh and Let's Play America was to try and do the Play Day virtually. In September, after a suggestion from Congressman Jamie Raskin to do a play event using Zoom, the organization held its 12th annual Play Day virtually.

The event featured Simon Says with Raskin, a clowning event with play leader Mike Funt and follow the leader with the Play Lady herself. "I almost have to pinch myself with what we've accomplished with Let's Play America," Rumbaugh said. "We have not only been able to survive this pandemic by being innovative and



Mike Funt

resourceful, I'd say we've elevated what we do."

Rumbaugh says they are using what they learned from the September event to improve the annual Mid-Winter Play Day, which will be held Sunday, Feb. 14, from 1 – 5 p.m. The event is set to feature circus acts, storytelling and exercise classes in English and Spanish, crafts with Jennifer Byrne, as well as Sporcle trivia and karaoke. "One of the biggest beauties of the all-virtual play days is that you don't

have to be present in Takoma Park, you can be anywhere," Rumbaugh said. "You can get your grandparents across the country to sign up and play along with you remotely."

Rumbaugh isn't letting the pandemic keep her down and has taken inspiration from her grandmother who lived through the Great Depression. "My maternal grandmother was very playful and had a huge impact on me," Rumbaugh said. "She would call the depression some of her best times. They would get together and make food and other things with whatever resources they had. They didn't have much, but they did OK."

That positive attitude can be key to mental health while being away from most family and other loved ones. According to Rumbaugh, the winter months ahead will certainly be difficult for many people, but activities like listening to music and keeping in touch with loved ones help.

For Jennifer Byrne, who will be holding an arts & crafts Play Day event in February, imagination is one of the best ways to protect your mental well-being. "Use the time you'd otherwise spend commuting or in your previous routine to get lost in your head," she said. "I saw this saying the other day: 'Don't quit your daydream.' Says it all." According to Byrne, imagining and letting your mind wander about future possibilities is something most people rarely have time to do anymore.

"We are so used running on autopi-

lot, just doing things to accomplish goals set perhaps years ago, that we've haven't stopped long enough to question whether the direction our actions are pointing to really reflect who we are now," she said. "Personally, imagining what's possible has been my go-to recipe for years when the outside world looks bleak."

Play leader Mike Funt, who will be leading a high-energy activity inspired by his work at The Clown School in Hollywood at the Play Day in February, said play is essential during the pandemic. "People are programmed to learn through play, socialize through play, empathize through play. When we lose play in our day-to-day lives, we are losing an essential part of ourselves," Funt observed. "As Dr. Stuart Brown [of the National Institute for Play] said, 'The opposite of play is not work; the opposite of play is depression.'"

For now, Let's Play America is always looking for volunteers to help with the virtual play events, but also to help secure grants and other funding. If you're interested in supporting or volunteering with Let's Play America, visit letsplayamerica.org.

Let's Play America Virtual Mid-Winter Play Day

Date: Sunday, Feb. 14, 1 – 5 p.m.

Location: Virtually on Zoom

More info: Visit letsplayamerica.org

Making masks, filling a need

By Sean Gossard

For Tracy Clare, it seemed only natural to turn her talent of creating and marketing handmade crafts like jewelry and crocheted toys into something that could really help the community during a pandemic. As the COVID-19 outbreak exploded around the country and people needed masks to stay safe from the spread of the virus, Clare thought the best thing she could do was start making masks for the community.

"I knew I needed to make masks," said Clare, who runs Tee Cee's Boutique, "so I dedicated myself all day, every day to making masks and I would give them out or sell them." After teaching herself to sew on a new sewing machine, finding a workable mask pattern and buying a few bed sheets from the store, she was ready to go. "I started using sheets in the beginning, but people thought they were pretty plain," she said. "Now I'm adding decals and other fun fabric masks, adding people's logos and customizing it to whatever people want."

Clare also has designs with flaps that tightly close so you can use a straw, designs with sports teams and Disney characters and even a few with clear plastic so mouths are visible. For Clare, it seemed to always be inevitable that she could make money from her craft projects. In 2008, Clare started making jewelry to fill the time after having



Tracy Clare

rotator cuff surgery. When she returned to work, she decided to bring along some of the handmade pieces to show off and, to her surprise, many of her co-workers started asking about the prices. "I didn't even think to price them," she said, "so I went home and came back the next day pricing things at \$3 or \$5."

A few years later, Clare was doing some spring cleaning when she came across her old jewelry-making sup-

plies and decided to take it up again. "I took a few pieces over to a girlfriend's house when I was on my way to my mechanic one day and she asked to buy a few pieces then and there," Clare said. "Even at the mechanic, there were a few people interested. I made about \$180 that day!"

Clare later added crocheted toys to her crafting routine, so she would have more variety of things to sell at markets in the area. "A lot of people were doing jewelry and other things, so I needed something to offset my sales," she said, "so I taught myself how

to crochet on YouTube, and that's how I started doing the toys."

When the pandemic hit, she wanted to help. She taught herself how to sew by hand and made a rudimentary mask, which she showed off on Facebook. The response to the post was quick and overwhelming, she said. People began asking if she could make masks for them and their families when finding them in stores was nearly impossible. She knew she would need to learn to make them on sewing machines if she was going to keep pace with demand.

"My son bought me a sewing machine on April 10, and within 30 minutes I was making masks," she said. "And I've been making them ever since." Clare prides herself on her masks and especially their comfort. "One woman was telling me through tears that she was so happy because the mask she bought from me was the only one her daughter could comfortably wear through a school day," she said.

If you are interested in Clare's masks, visit teeceesboutique.com. She also can be found at area farmers markets like Crossroads in Takoma Park. And if you do not see any to your liking, she said you can always reach out to her for custom orders.

Read more about community mask making efforts in the Winter City Guide enclosed with this issue of the newsletter.



A sampling of masks available from Tee Cee's Boutique

February

PUBLIC ART PROJECT CELEBRATING CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT: Local artists Samantha Contrino and Katie Macyshyn painted five new Little Free Library boxes with portraits of groundbreaking female authors and activists. Before their installation in areas of Takoma Park where there aren't little libraries nearby, the boxes made their debut at a reception in the Takoma Park Community Center (Feb. 26).



August

SAFETY SIGNAGE TO SUPPORT BUSINESSES: As part of the City's Healthy Business Initiative, staff distributed signage to local business owners (Aug. 24).



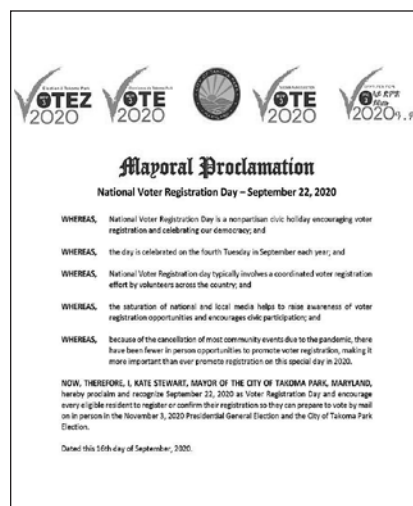
March

CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE FRAMEWORK: Continuing the long-standing work of the City of Takoma Park on climate change, the Takoma Park City Council passed the resolution by a vote of 5 to 2 (Mar. 4).



April

HELP FOR SMALL BUSINESSES: The City established a Citywide Small Business Mini-Grant Program in response to the immediate needs of small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Grants of up to \$3,000 per business were issued. The first group of mini-grants was announced in April.



September

A MAYORAL PROCLAMATION ON VOTER REGISTRATION: Mayor Kate Stewart declared Sept. 22 as National Voter Registration Day.

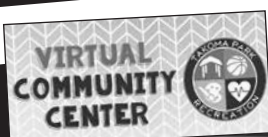
October

EQUITY WALK LAUNCHED: Takoma Park's Equity Walk – We Belong Here, funded by a Community Change Grant from America Walks, provided TP residents with a fun, engaging, educational activity that could be enjoyed at a safe physical distance. (Oct. 7).



May

STAYING ACTIVE ONLINE: The Takoma Park Recreation Department goes virtual with the launch of the Virtual Community Center and virtual classes (May).



June

CONGRATULATORY DRIVE: The Recreation Department coordinated a fun way to celebrate the senior class of Takoma Park (Jun. 13).



July

BOOKS-TO-GO BEGAN: The library launched its curbside service this past summer (July).

PHOTOS: Maurice Belanger



November

GETTING OUT THE VOTE, TAKING THE OATH: The City held its first ever vote by mail election on Nov. 3. In sum, 6,549 ballots were counted. Voter turnout exceeded 50 percent. The City Councilmembers and the Mayor took their oath of affirmation on Nov. 16.



December

SANTA CAME TO TOWN: Ably assisted by the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department, Santa came to town riding in an ambulance (Dec. 11).



RECREATION

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

VIRTUAL CLASSES • For a full list of classes see the Winter Guide, inside this issue!

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 January 16
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 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, 11-11:30 a.m.
Starting January 10
Free

FITNESS



Recess Break

It's Zoom Recess, but it's cold so we can't go outside! Join Ms. Charonne on Saturday mornings for stretching, fun and fitness! Spreading the word spreads more fun! Instructor: Charonne Butler
5-12 years
Saturdays, 10-10:30 a.m.
Starting January 9
Free

TEEN

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT



Crafting for Cash

Crafting for Cash will teach participants to create custom craft pieces like dolls, felt books, scarfs, hats, and lip balms that can then be sold to generate income (or keep as memoirs). Participants will learn how to sew, crochet and make homemade lip balm as well as discuss the tools needed to plan and market for a small home business. Materials will be provided.
Grades 6-12
Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
January 12-March 30
Free

Entrepreneurship for Teens 102

This is the higher level class of Teen Entrepreneurship. This virtual class builds upon the introductory session and dives deeper into the tools needed to start your 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.
January 13-February 17
Free

Learn to Code: HTML & CSS

Participants in this virtual program will learn how to use HTML and CSS coding to create web pages. From a blank Notepad page, teens will craft web pages with content and design aspects they choose. HTML and CSS are fundamental languages that compose all webpages on the Internet and structure each page. CSS is an extension to HTML that allows for the rapid styling of web pages for customization and aesthetic considerations. Participants will need access to a computer to participate in this class.

Grades 5-8
7 Week Session
Thursdays, 4-5 p.m.
January 7-February 18
Free

Meal Prep Mondays

Meal Prep Mondays is a fun and interactive one-hour course about basic cooking and kitchen skills as well as healthy recipes to prepare at home. Teens will be able to learn some nutritional components and how to create their own recipes as well as meal prep for the week.

Grades 6-12
Mondays, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
February 1-March 29
Free

Teenage Money Management

This financial literacy program specifically focuses on basic personal finance skills that are relevant to the lives of teens. By learning the concepts listed below and putting them into practice, participants will be much better prepared when they begin building their own credit history. Topics include: Long-Term Saving Goals, Credit Cards and Credit Reports, Opening a Bank Account, Student Loans and Budgeting. Instructor: Tyronda Boone of Zoey & Zander
Grades 5-8
5 Week Session
Mondays, 4-4:45 p.m.
January 11-February 22
(No Class: 1/18 & 2/15)
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.
Grades 6-12
Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
January 9-March 27
Free

ADULT

ART

Pandamit Painting

This class provides instruction in how to paint with acrylics including topics such as values, color mixing, complementary 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. Money saving tips will be given

to students. A list of the suggested supplies will be given to students. Instructor: Alice Sims

16 and older
Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Starting January 16
Free

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.
18 and older
Thursdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
January 28-March 18
Free



Foundational Fitness & Training II

FFT II is a fitness program for participants that have been or are currently involved in a fitness regimen. The program builds on the concepts of Classic FFT, which focuses on various movements from numerous disciplines while utilizing minimal resistance and multiple repetitions. This advanced class adds more resistance and incorporates floor or mat exercises using hand weights, bands/tubes, abdominal rollers and exercise balls. Equipment is not provided. FFT II will enhance, tone, and strengthen all major muscle groups as well as increase stamina and flexibility. Instructor: Michael Williams
18 and older
Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Starting January 16
Free

RECREATION □ Page 9



Snow Angels Volunteers Needed

In 2015 the Snow Angels were organized through Lifelong Takoma and the City of Takoma Park to assist elderly and disabled residents who can't do the heavy lifting of snow removal themselves. Led by program coordinator Bryan Goehring, the volunteer students of the Difference Makers club from Takoma Park Middle School fan out across the City of Takoma Park and clear the driveways and sidewalks of more than 70 homes. Each year, the Takoma Park Recreation Department coordinates with the Difference Makers to update the current list of residences.

The Snow Angels' snow removal program for winter 2020-2021 is currently full, but a waiting list is maintained,



and any vacancies are filled from the waiting list. The program has expanded

to include high school and adult volunteers from the community. SSL hours

are available for participating middle and high school students. During the fall season each year, Mr. Goehring puts out a request for new and returning volunteers. Unfortunately, the number of volunteers has dwindled during the past couple of years, and this important program is in jeopardy of being cancelled. The program is desperately in need of more volunteers. Your help will make a tremendous impact on the community. If you are interested in volunteering, go to <https://bit.ly/snowangels2020-21>, email snowangels@difference-makers.org, or call 301-233-1698. Together we can make a difference.

RECREATION

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

VIRTUAL CLASSES • For a full list of classes see the Winter Guide, inside this issue!

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 incorporated in almost all wisdom traditions throughout the world and notably in yoga. Yoga Asanas, or postures, will be broken down as well, going deeper into the postures to better holistically understand the asanas for yourself and enhance your practice. This is great for curious folks who want more guidance in their meditation practice as a whole and who want to explore new ways of experiencing yoga. Instructor: Beth Mwano
16 and older
Wednesdays, 7–8 p.m.
Starting January 13
Free

the entire class to ensure you are performing movements safely and effectively. Equipment needed: Floor space, high back chair, mat and weights (optional).
18 and older
Mondays, 10–11 a.m.
January 25–March 22
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 *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.
Starting January 13
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 older
Mondays, 6:30–7 p.m.
January 25–March 22
Free

55+

Phone a Neighbor

We are looking for Takoma Park Seniors who would like an occasional phone call during this time of uncertainty. All participants must have a landline phone or cell phone. To sign up, email paula@takomaparkmd.gov or call Ms. Paula at 240-87-4132.

FITNESS

Line Dance

Line Dancing is great physical and mental exercise, and an enjoyable social activity that leads to meeting new people and making new friends in a virtual environment. 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.
Starting January 13
Free

Yoga for Healthy Aging

This class helps build strength and endurance, increase flexibility and range-of-motion, improve posture and balance, and aids in preventing/reversing bone loss related to osteoporosis using a series of seated, standing, and floor poses and incorporates breathing and relaxation techniques. Students need to provide their own yoga sticky mat, a straight-backed chair, access to a wall, a yoga



belt (or equivalent, e.g., a necktie), a tennis ball, preferably a yoga block and blanket. Instructor: Carol Mermey
55 and older
Wednesdays, 2:15–3:15 p.m.
Starting January 13
Free

MULTIMEDIA

TPTalk55

This weekly hour was developed as a way to help seniors stay connected and catch up with friends, classmates and neighbors in a live chat room Monday afternoons at 1 p.m. on Zoom, and includes a call-in option available for seniors without internet access. To participate in the chat room, email: paula@takomaparkmd.gov or call Paula at 240-687-4132 to request the meeting information. We would love for you to join the conversation.
55 and older
Mondays, 1–2 p.m.
January 11–25
Free

Spirit Group Fitness

Fitness for all abilities
New routine uploaded
every Wednesday
takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc

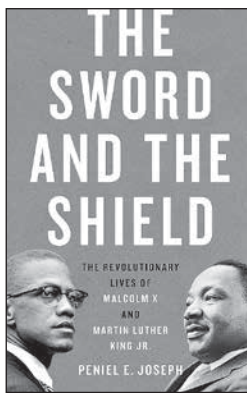
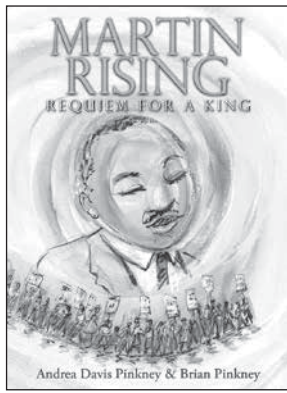


Rise and Move

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



LIBRARY



MLK Bookshelf

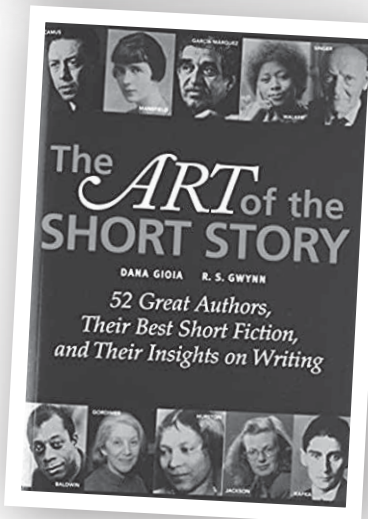
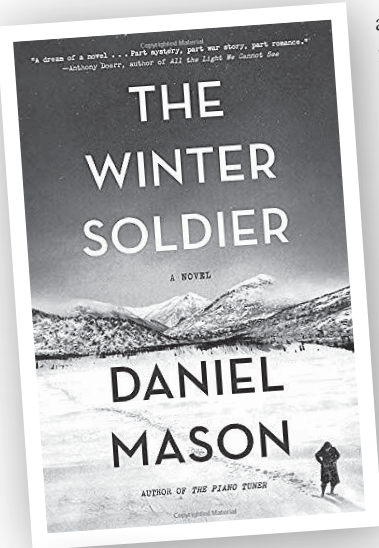
On Monday, January 18, we'll celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and legacy with a national holiday dedicated as a day of service. To learn more about King's inspiring life and achievements, check out one of the many books – for kids and adults – that we have about him. Younger kids may particularly enjoy a picture book, *Let the Children March*, written by Monica Clark-Robinson and illustrated by Frank Morrison, which shines a spotlight

on how even children helped King in his quest for civil rights for all. For older kids, try *Martin Rising: Requiem for a King*, written by Andrea Davis Pinkney and illustrated by Brian Pinkney, which focuses on the last months of King's life. Adults might be interested in *The Sword and the Shield: The Revolutionary Lives of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr.* written by Peniel Joseph and published earlier this year.

Book Club News!

The Friends Fortnightly Book Club, hosted by Tim Rahn, will return on January 21, via Zoom, following its postponement in March. The group will be discussing a novel about the Eastern Front of World War I. Tim writes: "Although broad in sweep, *The Winter Soldier* by Daniel Mason is unlike other war novels that describe epic battles. The story focuses on a young Polish medical student, Lucius Krzelewski, posted from Vienna to an almost forgotten field hospital on the eastern flanks of the Carpathian Mountains. There Margarete, a gun-toting nun, and the only remaining member of the hospital staff, greets him and introduces him to the rigors of battlefield medicine. Mason drives the novel's narrative with intricate storytelling and powerful descriptions." Copies of *The Winter Soldier* are available for check-out via our "Books-to-Go" curbside service.

The Takoma Park Big Book Club will continue its twice-yearly meetings in spring 2021, this time concentrating on short stories rather than a novel. At its last meeting (on Zoom during November), club members considered several candidate stories. To make



all the stories available in a consistent way, we have determined to use a specific anthology of famous short stories. This book is *The Art of the Short Story* (2005), edited by Dana Gioia and R. S. Gwynn. Copies are available from Amazon and from the Takoma Maryland library.

From the long list of stories in the book, members chose the following eight to discuss: Chinua Achebe, Dead Men's Path; Margaret Atwood, Happy Endings; James Baldwin, Sonny's Blues; Anton Chekhov, Misery; Ralph Ellison, A Party Down at the Square; Zora Neale Hurston, Sweat; Herman Melville, Bartleby, the Scrivener; and Isaac Bashevis Singer, Gimpel the Fool. Most likely we'll meet

once again via Zoom for four evenings, probably in April, to discuss the stories two at a time. More information will be sent to club members in the spring.

CALENDAR

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/tplibraryprograms. Please refresh your browser first as our line-up has recently changed, and make sure you register for the "Zoom" version of these programs. To keep up with all our programs, go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents.

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

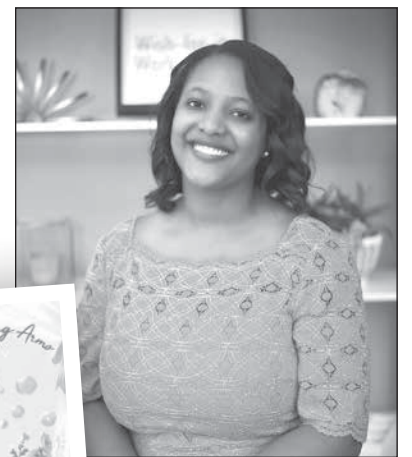
Zoom Comics Jam: Once a month on a Wednesday at 4 p.m. The next date is January 13. To keep up with the schedule, please register for Zoom Comics Jam at www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents; we will send an email with the next date to all registered. The Meeting ID for Zoom Comics Jam is 734-913-6285. No Meeting Password needed.

Zoom Spanish Circle Time: Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Please note the new credentials for this program. Meeting ID is: 959-5178-5847 and the Meeting Password is: 793725.

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

Ceece in the Circle

Please join us for a special Zoom Circle Time on Tuesday, Jan. 19 at 10:30 a.m., when local author Ceece Kelley will read her debut picture book, *Dear Mama's Loving Arms*. As Kelley describes it, her book, illustrated by Sawyer Cloud, "tells a beautiful story about the power of a mother's love from the perspective of a child. The main character, Baby, learns to cope with daily naps – and separation from Dear Mama – by joining Dear Mama in safari-themed dreams inspired by Baby's toy giraffe, Raffie." Kelley says she decided to write the book because she wanted her young son to have books with characters that look like him.



Author Ceece Kelley



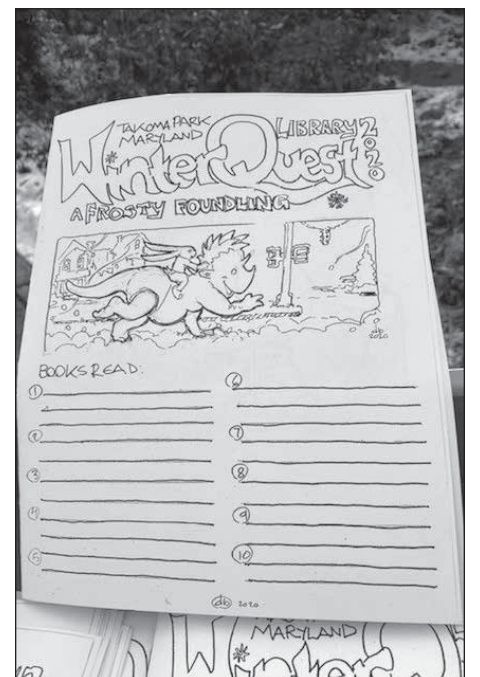
The most recent children's publishing statistics show that only 27 percent of children's books feature characters of diverse racial or ethnic backgrounds. To market her book, Kelley, who has a background in brand marketing and creative services plus a master's degree in liberal arts from Harvard University, decided to create her own publishing firm, Soaring Kite Books. Kelley's second book, the first in a series about a girl named Georgie Dupree, will be available for pre-order on Feb. 2 from Soaring Kite Books. Kelley will read from her book in the middle of this special Jan. 19 Zoom Circle Time. To participate, go to <https://zoom.us>. Click on "Join a Meeting." Then put in this Meeting ID: 995-4901-8825 and Meeting Password: 178851.

The Quest Has Begun

The Takoma Park Maryland Library's WinterQuest reading game is now online at the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library's website: ftpm.org/winterquest2020-2021.

Created each year by Library Associate Dave Burbank, the WinterQuest story contains 10 reading challenges, and each time you complete a challenge, you get to move along the gameboard. The challenges are open-ended and might include ones like "read a funny book" or "read a book that shows you how to make or do something (cooking, crafts, etc.), then make or do it." Overall, the idea is just to keep kids (and adults) interested in reading through the winter by choosing the books they want to read to complete the reading challenges.

This year, you have got lots of time to do your WinterQuest reading as the program won't end until the first day of spring – March 20. A huge thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring WinterQuest, and a special shout-out to Friends webmaster Maurice Belanger for making WinterQuest happen online.



WinterQuest tracking sheet

Children's Book Review

Editor's Note: This review is from a student who writes for SSL hours.

Andri Snær Magnason's *The Story of the Blue Planet*, although a children's book, was one of my favorite books and still impacts me today.

Telling the story of a planet filled with only children, the book centers itself around two children, named Brimir and Hulda. Two best friends, they witness the landing of a spacecraft, out of which emerges a fully grown man. Mistaking him for a monster, Brimir and Hulda run back to tell the other children about this newly discovered beast. The man, however, turns out to be a self-proclaimed "DreamComeTrueMaker and Joybringer" named Gleesome Goodday.

The children soon discover that Goodday really was able to do magical things, like making children fly, fixing the sun to the sky, and stealing youth. In exchange for all of his marvelous creations for the children, he took a little bit of youth from all the children. Without realizing this, the children flew around without a care in the world. Hulda and Brimir, however, got into a fight and accidentally fell into the dark side of the world. Since there was



no sunlight they could not fly, and the sun was fixed into the same place forever by Goodday. The pair eventually stumble upon a different society of children, but one who has lost the daylight. With their help, Hulda and Brimir were able to make their way back to their side, but not without the terrible story of a group of children in need. Goodday, like always however, twists the situation and brushes it off. After some con-

vincing and conflict, the children were able to get their youth back from Goodday, made him their king, and everyone was happy.

I really like this book because it taught a very valuable lesson. It showed me that youth is very important, but that I should also be very careful and considerate of myself and others. I think Magnason did a great job writing this story, and I hope that one day, everyone reads this book.

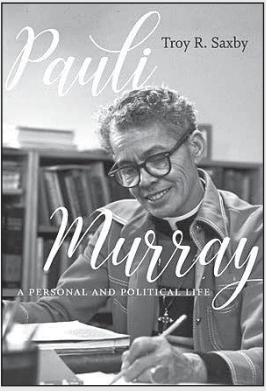
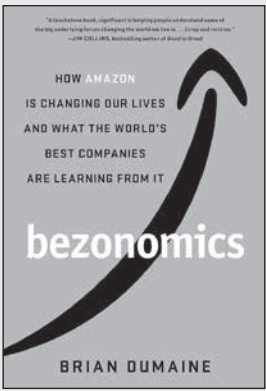
—Kevin

If your student likes to read and is interested in writing reviews for Student Service Learning hours, contact Children's Librarian Kati Nolfi at kathrynn@takomaparkmd.gov.

LIBRARY BRIEFS

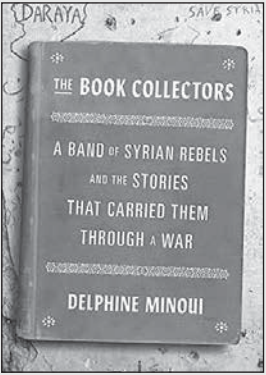
- The 2020 National Book Awards recently were announced and we're happy to report that our library has two winners: *The Dead Are Arising; the Life of Malcolm X*, by Les Payne, for Nonfiction – and for Young People's Literature: *King and the Dragonflies*, by Kacen Calender. We also have two finalists in Children's literature: *We Are Not Free* by Traci Chee and *When Stars Are Scattered* by Omar Mohamed and Victoria Jamieson. Finalists in adult fiction include *A Children's Bible* by Lydia Millet, and in adult non-fiction: *The Undocumented Americans*, by Karla Cornejo Villavicencio. Long-listed in adult fiction are: *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett and *The Index of Self-destructive Acts* by Christopher Beha. For adult nonfiction, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson and *Owls of the Eastern Ice: A Quest to Find and Save the World's Largest Owl* by Jonathan Sloght. Long-listed for Young People's Literature: *Lifting as We Climb: Black Women's Battle for the Ballot Box* by Evette Dionne. These books may be borrowed in our Books-To-Go program! Other award winners will be available at the library soon.

- We're entering our sixth month of providing "Books-to-Go" curbside service, and a patron recently asked us, via our Twitter account (@takoma), what is the library staff's experience of providing this service. Our response? We enjoy it! It's fun to see what patrons uncover in the catalog – it's a bit different from what people choose when they simply browse. And we are very grateful for patrons who send along their thanks for this service. Since "Books-to-Go" started in July, slightly more than 10,000 items (including magazines, audiobooks, etc.) have been checked out. If you have not yet tried "Books-to-Go," what are you waiting for? Here's what you need to get started: www.takomapark.info/library/curbside.html.
- Looking for some great – and free – storytime videos? Check out the YouTube channel, Kati Knows Storytime, created by Children's Librarian Kati Nolfi. Since the library closed in March, Kati has created quite a few brief videos, usually featuring one book and perhaps a song or two. In one of Kati's latest videos, she reads from a picture book, *Hurry Up! A Book About Slowing Down* written by Kate Dopirak and illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal.



New Editions

The library building is closed, but we continue to add new books to our collection. Because patrons cannot browse the new books, we are working to find ways to let you know about them. You will find a list of some new adult books below, and you can discover what's new in kids and teen books by going to the "Children's Corner" blog maintained by Karen MacPherson, children's & teen services coordinator.



Adult Books

The Truths We Hold – Kamala Harris
The Dirty South – John Connolly
Pauli Murray – Troy Saxby
Once I Was You – Maria Hinojosa
Bezonomics – Brian Dumaine
24 – Willie Mays

The Book Collectors – Delphine Minoui
Sorry Not Sorry – Sophie Ranald
That Cheese Plate Will Change Your Life – Marissa Mullen

Books-to-Go expanding

We are expanding Books-to-Go curbside service! Beginning Monday, Jan. 4, our pick-up times will be 2–8 Monday–Friday and noon–6 on Saturdays. Please check our website for more details. Residents can place book orders by email (strongly preferred) and phone.

EMAIL REQUESTS

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

- The subject line should include your name (even if it is part of your email address), the type of books you want (A for adult books, J for children's/teen books), and either the last four digits of your library card or the month and day of your birthday.
- In the body of the email, list the books you are requesting. It will help us to help you if you first search our online catalog, and provide us with the title, and call number (not the barcode). Also, please make sure it is available. If it is a fiction work, please use what we have in the catalog. For instance, the call number for *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger is FIC SALINGER. For a non-fiction book, such as *Birds of Eastern North America* by Paul Sterry, the call number is 598.097 STERRY.
- We will reply when we have fulfilled your request, and let you know when you may to pick up your books. Incomplete information will delay the process.



Library staffer Altı awaiting pick up of books

Once a request is filled, the email exchange is archived. If you wish to place a second order, please start a fresh email request.

PHONE REQUESTS

To request books by phone, call 240-507-0229 between 12-6 Monday-Friday.

- We will ask you for your name and the last four digits of your library card number or the month and day of your birthday.
- When you give us the titles of the books you want, please give us the author and call number as well (if you are using the catalog).

PICK-UP PROCEDURES

When you arrive for pick-up, please call 301-580-0085.

So Many Memories

Editor's Note: This is the fifth of a series of articles reflecting on death and grief that will run under the thematic heading, "So Many Memories." With many people in the Takoma Park Community continuing to experience the loss of friends and loved ones, we want to provide a forum for thought leaders in the community to offer their reflections on grieving and loss. If you have questions or would like to contribute, please email me at tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov.

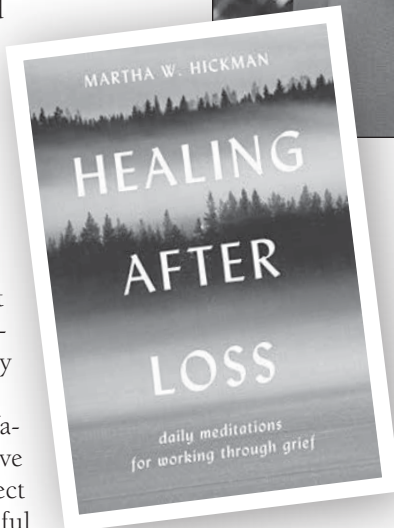
—Apyrl Motley

Love Continues

By Suzanne Ludlow

Holidays are always both joyous and hard. My heart goes out to all who have lost family members this year or who have had a difficult time. Although my husband died three years ago, I have felt his loss more this year. And, I lost a nephew to suicide last month – which I believe is an indirect COVID-19 death. Many City staff members have lost loved ones this year, and I so appreciate that they continue to work to serve the residents of Takoma Park despite the difficulty in doing so.

One thing that surprised me after my father's death 20+ years ago is how his love continues. I didn't know what to expect when he died, and it has been wonderful to know that the memories and counsel of my father, mother, and husband remain. For those who are having a very difficult time, I recommend the book, *Healing After Loss* by Martha Whitmore Hickman. I still find it useful.



There is much to be hopeful about as we move into the year 2021. Thank you to the researchers, scientists, volunteers and others who have developed COVID-19 vaccines! Over the next six months, everyone should be vaccinated unless there is a medical reason not to receive the vaccine. This is the only way to save lives, reopen schools and stores, and get back to the communal everyday life we so badly need.

I am reminded of a story I think I read in a *Reader's Digest* years ago. A flood warning had gone out to a community and a resident said he wasn't leaving his house because "God will protect me." The floodwa-

ters were at waist level when a man in a boat came by to get him and the man turned him away, saying "God will protect me." As the floodwaters deepened and the man was on his roof, a helicopter came by to get him and the man said, "No, God will protect me." The man drowned. When he then saw God, he said, "What happened? Why didn't you save me?" God replied, "I sent you a warning, a boat and a helicopter, what more did you need!"

Whatever your faith, please heed the sound health care advice: wear a mask, avoid large gatherings, and get a vaccine as soon as you are able.

The City has a terrific COVID-19 resource page (takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/information-and-resources-covid-19) that you should check periodically. It includes information on testing, as well as food, financial and mental health resources. And, as we get information on vaccination plans, we will help share it.

One of my brothers wrote in a message to me Christmas Eve morning, "As in other countries, there are masses of people who are ready for more truth, more peace, more justice, more freedom, more environmental responsibility than our so-called leaders give us credit for." This particular brother is one that I expected to pass away this year but now is out of hospice care. It is one of the best holiday presents I could have hoped for.

I hope the miracle of love comes your way in the New Year. We will get through all of this together! Happy New Year!

A slightly different version of this article originally appeared on the City's website (December 24, 2020): takomaparkmd.gov/news-alert/city-manager-ludlows-holiday-message-of-hope-as-we-move-into-2021.

A Virtual Day Fit for a King

Still making a difference...differently! In light of the pandemic, this is the approach many civic and volunteer organizations are taking to observing the MLK Day holiday on January 18, 2021, which marks the 26th anniversary of the day of service celebrating the Civil Rights leader's life and legacy.

Observed each year on the third Monday in January as "a day on, not a day off," MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. Like many other events and observances this past year, the day of service is being retooled for the virtual environment.

On the national level, AmeriCorps has been charged to lead this effort for the last quarter century. To learn more about participating during COVID-19, signing up for a volunteer opportunity, or registering a project, visit www.nationalservice.gov/serve-your-community/mlk-day-service.

Locally, the Montgomery County Volunteer Center's annual MLK Day of Service event has gone virtual and expanded to a week this year, with a variety of home-based and safely distanced service opportunities available, January 16–24, 2021. For more information, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/volunteers/MLK.html.

In addition, here's a short listing of some of the events scheduled in surrounding communities. All events are virtual and free unless noted otherwise.

Rock Creek Conservancy MLK Weekend of Service

Every year, in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rock Creek Conservancy, in partnership with the National Park Service, and Montgomery Parks, part of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), celebrates MLK Day with the MLK Weekend of Service. This multi-day volunteer event is part of a nationwide effort to empower individuals, build community connections and celebrate Dr. King's conviction that "all of life is interrelated" by protecting the parklands that make our region resilient to climate change. For details about registering to participate in various trash cleanup events being held January 16–18, visit bit.ly/RCC-MLK.

More Information: volunteer@rockcreekconservancy.org

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Lecture featuring Eddie S. Glaude

Presented by the Reginald F. Lewis Museum in partnership with Enoch Pratt Library

January 16, 1 p.m.

Eddie S. Glaude Jr., author of *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own*, will discuss race in America following the Trumpian era of shattered promises and white retrenchment. Mixing biography—drawn partially from newly uncovered interviews—with history, memoir, and trenchant analysis



of our current moment, *Begin Again* is Glaude's attempt to bear witness to the difficult truth of race. Glaude is the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor at Princeton University.

Registration and More Information: <https://bit.ly/2Mi76Sg>

Annual Mass Celebrating the Legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

January 16, 5 p.m.

The Archdiocese of Washington Office of Cultural Diversity will host this service. Mass will be celebrated by Cardinal Wilton Gregory. All are invited to attend this virtual event, which will be live streamed on the Archdiocese of Washington YouTube channel (WashArchdiocese).

More Information: culturaldiversity@adw.org

St. Mary's College 17th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Celebration Program

January 18, 8 – 10 a.m.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Crystal Fleming,

professor of sociology and Africana studies @ SUNY Stony Brook

Registration: Register for the Zoom webinar link https://smcm.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CXdbnSf3QV-OP7Ce-GCFA5Q

More Information: Peggy Aud at praud@smcm.edu or 240-475-3060

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Virtual Shoebox Parade 2021

January 18, 12 p.m.

Shoebox parades are big celebrations on a small scale. Baltimore City Recreation and Parks invited residents from across Baltimore to submit their handmade mini floats to capture the spirit of Baltimore and Black History in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2021. View the parade at www.facebook.com/recnparks.

More information: delaney.cate@baltimorecity.gov or call 410-926-2455

Editor's Note: These event listings are by no means comprehensive. Our goal was to present a small sample of what is available to local families for commemorating the MLK Holiday. The City of Takoma Park in no way endorses these events. For questions about scheduling, etc., contact event sponsors directly.



A socially distanced audience enjoys Encore's outdoor performance of *Next to Normal*.

A new theater company comes to town

By Taylor Dibbert

Takoma Park's vibrant arts and cultural scene has a new kid on the block. Encore Theater Company was created last year. Its website notes that Encore "is a non-profit theater dedicated to providing an artistic home for performers of all backgrounds who share a singular mission: telling stories that matter."

Encore is co-directed by Steve Quintilian and Julie Lloyd, partners who live together on Davis Avenue in Takoma Park. "We wanted to create a place that could really call Takoma Park home," Lloyd told me.

Quintilian mentioned that Encore is focused on honoring actors and the work that they put in. "We wanted to make the auditions process as streamlined, transparent and enjoyable for actors as possible," he said.

For its first show, "Next to Normal," Encore made sure that all actors who submitted got a response. And for people who were called back for a second round of auditions, those actors got personalized feedback. "Actors put a lot of work into preparing for auditions, and we think they should be respected and valued," Quintilian said.

One of the main ideas behind Encore was to give opportunities to a wide range of people, as both performers and members of the audience. Lloyd and Quintilian both arrived at theater in nontraditional ways. And both have day jobs. Lloyd works as a communications consultant, and Quintilian works as a music cataloguer for the University of Maryland. He is also a voice instructor.

"We wanted to create a place where people didn't feel like they had to hide if they had a day job," Lloyd said. She mentioned that many times performers may feel compelled to behave as if acting or the performing arts is the only thing they are working on or in, when in reality life is far more complicated for most people. "You go to an audition, and you feel like you have to hide the fact that you have a day job," she said. Lloyd noted that there are so many ways for people to participate in



Julie Lloyd and Steve Quintilian

the arts without pursuing it full-time. In that context, Encore is designed so that people who have those other commitments can still participate.

In March, Encore started auditions for its fall (and first) show. This was right as the pandemic began. Quintilian noted that every arts organization has been affected by COVID-19. "We did our best to put something up last year," he said. "Our plans changed dramatically."

"Next to Normal," a modern musical, was originally planned to play at Seeker's

Church in Takoma, DC. The auditions were all done virtually. Due to coronavirus concerns, "Next to Normal," was performed in Lloyd and Quintilian's backyard. Two shows were presented, and about forty people attended each show. When considering the backyard option, Lloyd realized that she and Quintilian had terrific neighbors who really appreciated the arts. They had an invitation-only audience comprised of neighbors and friends, and family of the cast. Social distancing was strictly enforced.

The show was opened and closed one weekend in August. Most of the rehearsals were conducted on Zoom, and all the actors were masked. They also did temperature checks, and all cast members were tested for COVID-19 the week prior to the show. "Basically, we had to become logistics and public health experts in addition to all the other aspects of running a show," Lloyd said. "I'm really proud of what we were able to accomplish," Quintilian said.

The show was offered free of charge, which wasn't the original plan. Actors were still paid in full. Lloyd and Quintilian did some fundraising, and a lot of the people who attended the performances ended up making donations. According to Lloyd, the feedback they got from audience members was wonderful. Neighbor Wayne Firestone said that the show "felt like a victory of the spirit that only live theatre could deliver." Firestone also mentioned he "was struck by the candor of addressing mental illness in such a nuanced way. What a beacon for how theatre artists can lift the spirits of a community with their special talents." Another neighbor Paul Scribner said, "The quality of the singing and acting performances was really first rate, honestly."

Once Encore has officially been existence for one year, there will be many more opportunities to obtain funding through grants. Lloyd and Quintilian had originally planned to do a play in February, but that likely won't happen. "The possibility of doing something outdoors in the winter is probably not as realistic," Lloyd said. Instead they plan to show "Incognito," a play, in the spring or summer of 2021 (or inside depending on what happens with the coronavirus). Additionally, Encore has plans for a play reading class for adults and an acting (via song) class for children.

Though it's early days and there are undoubtedly challenges ahead, a couple things seem clear. Encore is off to a very promising start, and the group is a welcome addition to the city's lively arts scene.

"We wanted to create a place that could really call Takoma Park home."

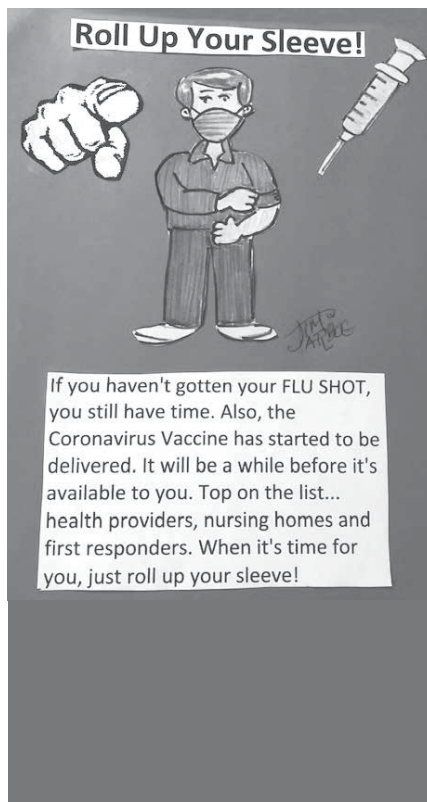
—Julia Lloyd

By Jim Jarboe

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of December 30, 2020 49 people died in fires compared to 65 in 2019.

Hot vehicle deaths

As of December 30, 2020 24 children across the country have died in hot vehicles. It can also happen in the cold weather, so make sure when you leave your vehicle everyone goes with you. And do not forget to lock it.



The Takoma Park Lions Club (TPLC) in partnership with the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department (TPVFD) provided funds to purchase 21 dinners for families throughout the area. Each dinner fed 6–8 people. This marked the 26th year. We do it because we care about our community and those in need. We also added a list of “cooking” safety tips. Meet the Dinner Pickup and Delivery Crew: Jim Jarboe TPVFD/TPLC, City Councilman Terry Seamens, Mike Bigler TPLC/Past District Governor and Dave Hooker TPVFD.



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:

ከጉዳዩ ያለውን ይህን አይ ይፈልጉ
የዚህ መጻፍትን አከሰም ራሳዬም ርዕዮ
በሌሎች ጽኑዎቹም በመስመር ላይ
ማንበብ ይቻላል
ትርጉሙን በመጠቀም
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A Challenging New Year: COVID-19 Continues and Winter Storms Return



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

Your 2020 training in dealing with COVID-19 remains a valuable skill—the winter months, with more indoor activity, mean continued vigilance. This will be especially important because winter storms—especially ice storms—are not stopped by COVID-19. Yes, the storms will come! And when COVID-19 and storms come together, you need to be aware and be prepared:

COVID-19

- Two days for free testing in Takoma Park at the Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Ave.)
 1. Saturdays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and
 2. Wednesdays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m
- Testing information and resources are on the web: takomaparkmd.gov — click on covid-19 just above the blue help line — takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/information-and-resources-covid-19
- For local help, check the latest information in the Takoma Park website: takomaparkmd.gov — click on COVID-19 icon. You will arrive at “Information and Resources: Covid-19 Response.” This is updated weekly. And you can call 311.
- Montgomery County Covid-19 updates: help, food and services, mask and distance rules: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19

Winter Storms

Our region gets snow, rain and ice storms. This is dangerous because we get rain, which freezes when it hits the ground and rain that starts out frozen in the clouds and then coats the streets and power lines; then there is sleet, which is ice pellets hitting the ground; freezing temperatures and snow; strong winds; and ice that can weigh down the power lines. All of which could result in no electricity. Heavy ice storms can tear off cellular antenna towers, resulting in poor or no power for cell phones.

“Ice Storms affect very large areas, cause the longest power outages that this area experiences, markedly increase travel times for emergency responders because the emergency vehicles have to be “chained up” for crew safety and to assure a higher likelihood of actual arrival at the scene, [so as not to] deprive [ill persons] of access to needed regular care, such as dialysis, and to avoid the elderly and families with small children being isolated in their homes without heat, and more.” (Thank you, Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Dept) Stay safe by:

- Signing up for Takoma Park Alerts at takomaparkmd.gov/services/takoma-park-alert
- Understanding key terms - storm watch = storm coming; storm warning= storm's arrival or arrival momentarily
- Being prepared (see checklist)

For 2021, remember, “You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose.” – Dr. Seuss

Contact us: 301-8891-7126 or tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov. Join us once a month for “Dear Bea(trice) Prepared” on Talk of Takoma (WOWD/LP 94.3FM).

Ready or Not? A Basic Preparedness Checklist

- Emergency contacts list, one local person and one out of area:
ready____ not____
- Communication plan:
ready____ not____
- Electronic and paper copies of health records:
ready____ not____
- Copies of important documents (ids, medical records, insurance, driver's license, social security, photos (paper or USB drive):
ready__ not____
- Medication list easily accessible; doctor info; Extra medication:
ready____ not____
- Power outage: working flashlights & extra batteries, nearby
ready____ not____
- Cell phone charger, full power:
ready ____ not____
- Battery operated radio (or hand crank):
ready____ not____
- Cash (power outage means cannot use credit card or ATM):
ready____ not____
- Evacuation Plan: Listen to local news; check Takoma Park Alerts:
ready____ not____
- Signed up for Takoma Park ALERTs:
ready____ not____
- Storm watch and storm warning prepared:
ready ____ not____

What's your Preparedness Ready Grade (PRG)? If not 100%, make changes now!

How to Use the Takoma Park Project Directory

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

takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory

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

GOVERNMENT	SERVICES	INITIATIVES	NEWS
Boards, Commissions & Committees	Bids & Contracts	Project Directory (All City Projects)	City Election Information
City Clerk	Business & Multifamily	Arts and Humanities	City Council & Mayor Blog
City Council	Recycling	Census 2020 – Everyone Counts in Montgomery County	City Manager & Staff Blog
City Manager	Careers/Jobs	Community Conversations	News & News Alerts
City TV	Community Partners and Resources		Forever Young
Communications	Curbside Collection		

You’ll be taken to the “Project Directory” page, which lists all major projects being worked on or planned citywide. Projects are grouped by the following classifications based on their purpose:

- Crime & Safety
- Customer Service / Community Engagement
- Economic Development
- Internal Projects
- Policy Priorities
- Public Infrastructure
- Regional
- Sustainability

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

Project Directory				Search: <input type="text" value="Library"/>
Project Title & Link	Project Classification	Target Completion Date	Ward	
Library Renovation Project	Public Infrastructure - Buildings	2017 - TBD	Citywide	
Table: City of Takoma Park project directory listing all of the major projects currently being worked on or planned.				
Completed Projects				Search: <input type="text"/>
Project Title & Link	Project Classification	Completion Date	Ward	
Washington Adventist Hospital	Regional Project	2019	Citywide	
Dorothy's Woods	Public Infrastructure - Property	2018	3	
Police Chief Search	Recruitment	2017-12	Citywide	

Then click on the name of the project that interests you. In this example, a resident wanted more information about the Library Renovation Project.

LIBRARY RENOVATION/RECONSTRUCTION

About the Library Renovation/Reconstruction Project

Based on the results of a 2014 needs assessment and long-time community interest and support, the City plans to reconstruct its Library. The current facility has served the community well for decades, but it no longer adequately meets our collections and programming needs and is in need of accessibility improvements.

When discussions about renovations began, the assumption was that we would work within the existing building and modernize and improve the space. However, in the course of our due diligence after engaging an architect to assist with conceptual design, it was determined that the City needed a flood plain delineation study to ascertain whether the current flood wall (which was planned to be incorporated into the expanded Library building) was adequate.

A preliminary report was concluded in August of 2018, and submitted to the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services for review. Based on the conclusions of the flood plain study, it was determined that a higher elevation for the Library was needed. In 2019, the architect submitted design options for a library building that would meet the elevation criteria but would preserve the same footprint.

Current Status:

On February 26, 2020, architect Greg Lukens of R2/M4 Lukens Architects made a presentation to the City Council on the current status of plans for a replacement Library. Regarding the flood plain study: An initial flood plain study was accepted by the County. The second flood plain report has just been completed, and shows that the expanded Library footprint causes minimal impact on the heights of the flood plain. While it still needs to be submitted to the County, the findings mean that substantial regrading is not required for the new Library. The current plans for the project were submitted to an independent cost estimator. The report, received on February 25, estimated construction costs at \$8.3 million, including a large contingency. The previous estimate was about \$7.6 million. The difference reflects more increases in construction material costs of about 5%, labor costs of 10-12%, and a different estimate for site work costs. The architect also shared drawings of a preferred interior and several possible exterior options for the new building. The current library is 9,400 square feet – the proposed design increases the square footage to 19,025 square feet.

Additional information was presented by the architect and discussed at the Council Work Session of March 11, 2020. In sum, floodplain findings were consistent with earlier projections that raising the floor of the building would be sufficient to meet flood plain requirements without substantial redesign of the site. And, the estimated total hard and soft costs of the project are very close to the amount of funds available for the project – \$9.8 million.

On April 15, 2020, the City Council considered and voted unanimously to authorize the City Manager or her designee to enter into a contract with R2/M4 Lukens Architects for the next phase of the project: continued concept design and potential detailed design and engineering for Library renovation, at a cost of \$499,835. Funding for this contract and the Library project overall is available through the State Infrastructure Loan Program, Maryland Capital Grants, and City Cable Grant funds.

Updated Plan 0220-01-208

Project Lead & Contact Info

Jessica Clarke
Deputy City Manager
Phone: 301-891-7202
Email: jessica@takomaparkmd.gov

Ellen Arnold-Robbins
Library Director
Phone: 301-891-7258
Email: Ellen@takomaparkmd.gov



Library Renovation/Reconstruction Details

Project Info & Timeline

- Target completion date: To be determined
- Takoma Park's role in project: Lead
- Departments involved: Administration, Library, Public Works

Budget & Funding Source

The FY18 approved Budget contained funding for completion of the concept design, detailed design development, construction of a renovated and expanded Library, and relocation of collections and services during construction, at a total cost of approximately \$7,000,000. In March of 2017, the City was awarded \$250,000 in Bond Bill Funding. In June of 2017, following two public hearings on the Budget, the City Council voted unanimously to approve funding for the Library Renovation, and the subsequent borrowing of \$7,000,000 through the Maryland State Infrastructure Loan Program. In 2018, the city was awarded an additional \$250,000 in Bond Bill Funding. Funding for the Library project overall is available through the State Infrastructure Loan Program, Maryland Capital Grants, and City Cable Grant funds.

A schedule of loan payments is here included.

Funding Source: CIP – General Fund

Links & Notes

2020 Updates

R2/M4 Lukens Architects is working on a final design and construction estimate to present to the City Council in September 2020. The final design of the library exterior will be a blend of the architectural elements displayed in the exterior options below. 577 people voted in a July public survey on the three options. The results of the public survey were presented to the Council during the July 8 Council hearing.



2019 Updates

On July 31, 2019 the City Council authorized a contract with architect Greg Lukens, R2/M4 Lukens Architects, to begin detailed design necessary to determine cost estimates for construction. This phase is expected to last until late winter of 2020.

The most current information about where things stand, including a presentation by architect Greg Lukens and Jason Fritz of Adtek Engineers, is available at the following links:

- Overview of Library Projects and Discussion of Architect's Contract
- PowerPoint Presentation

The most recent concept design options are available here.

Earlier designs under consideration are available here.

Preliminary Library Flood Plain Conditions Report

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

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

- ADA Sidewalk Compliance Program
- Cultural Plan
- Donate to Assist Small Businesses
- Flower and Sligo Creek Traffic Calming
- Inter-jurisdictional Cooperation Agreements
- Library Renovation Project
- Montgomery County Bicycle Master Plan
- Multifamily and Business Recycling Initiative
- New Hampshire Avenue Initiative
- Purple Line
- Racial Equity
- Sidewalk Design and Construction
- Small Business Mini-Grant Program
- State Highway Administration Projects
- Stormwater Management Projects
- Street Resurfacing
- Streetlight Replacement Project
- Takoma Junction Redevelopment
- Takoma Park Middle School Addition
- Tree Ordinance Review
- Tree Pruning Information
- Update of Financial Policies

January 2021 Calendar

For the foreseeable future, we'll use this space to feature city resources and provide important updates on city services. However, let us know if you have a virtual, nonprofit event that would be of interest to City of Takoma Park residents, and we'll consider it for inclusion in the calendar. Deadline for the February issue is Jan. 15, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning Jan. 29. To submit virtual calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov.

Event Cancellations

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

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

For information on Takoma Park Arts online events, visit takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/arts-and-humanities.

STAY ACTIVE

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

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.

Recess Break

Join Ms. Charonne on Saturday mornings for stretching, fun and fitness! Spreading the word spreads more fun! Instructor: Charonne Butler

Saturdays, 10–10:30 a.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.



PUBLIC DAYS OF NOTE

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Day - City Offices Closed

Monday, Jan. 18

All City offices and facilities will be closed Jan. 18 for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The Takoma Park Police Department is open 24/7 for emergency services.

SHARE IDEAS

Attend virtual City Council meetings!

Wednesday, Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m.

City Council Regular Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 20

Inauguration Day - The City Council will not meet.

Thursday, Jan. 21

City Council Closed Session, 6 p.m.
City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 27, 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.

SUPPORT THE ARTS

Washington Revels & Carpe Diem Arts Daily Antidotes of Song

Online/Virtual Daily, noon (ongoing)

Each day at noon, Washington Revels and Carpe Diem Arts will share some "notes of hope" as a song leader from their roster of local, national and international guest artists offers a song online. Watch their website for specially-themed weeks and for instructions on how to participate. You can also watch most days on Facebook Live. Visit their website for instructions on how to join online. Free, but donations to the "Antidote Fund" are encouraged and support the artists. Info: info@revelsdc.org; revelsdc.org/2020/daily-song

Piano Quintets

Jan. 16, 7–8:30 p.m.

Livestreamed from BannerArts

The Milo Trio plus two perform Piano Quintets, Johannes Brahms – Piano Quintet in Fm Op. 34 and Antonin Dvorak – Piano Quintet in A, Op. 81

Celaya Kirchner and Santiago Vazquez-Loredo, violins; Ivan Mendoza, viola; Emma Hays Johnson, cello; and Carl Banner, piano

www.youtube.com/washingtonmusicaviva

Free

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

MLK Week of Service January 16 - 24

The Volunteer Center's annual MLK Day of Service event has gone virtual and expanded to a week this year, with a variety of home-based and safely distanced service opportunities, January 16-24, 2021. Projects range from activities like writing letters to isolated seniors to creating toys for service dogs. Choose to participate in one or many! They all help others in our community. MCPS students can earn SSL hours for most service projects except donations. Details outlined within each opportunity.

For more information, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/volunteers/MLK.html.

Let's Play America Virtual Mid-Winter Play Day

Sunday, Feb. 14, 1 – 5 p.m.

The event will feature circus acts, storytelling and exercise classes in English and Spanish, crafts with Jennifer Byrne, as well as Sporcle trivia and karaoke.

More info: Visit letsplayamerica.org



Be a Hero
#MaskUpMoCo
SPREAD LOVE NOT GERMS
MaskUpMoCo.com | IT'S THE LAW