

## WHAT'S NEW?

### Helping to Feed the Community

See page 3

### Safe Routes to School: Back to School Safety

Details, page 4

### Books-To-Go Info

Details, page 10

### Thinking About Solar?

See page 11

### More FY22 Budget Info

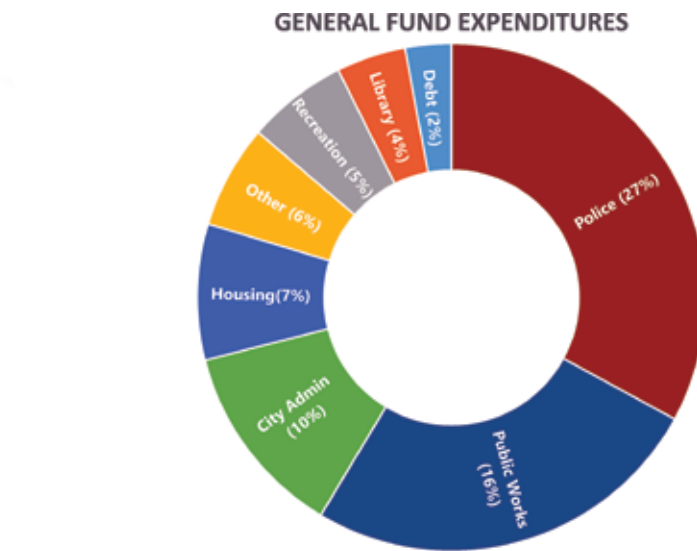
See page 6

### Trash/Recycling Collection

No changes this month

### Look for this Icon throughout this issue

See page 10



## Budgeting for a New Day Post-Pandemic: FY22 Proposed Budget Overview

City Manager Ludlow kicked off the Fiscal Year 2022 budget season with a presentation of the Proposed Budget to City Council on April 7. Public

hearings on the budget will be held on Wednesday, April 14 and Wednesday, April 28. We want to hear from

**BUDGET** □ Page 6



## Spring toward hope during National Poetry Month

By Kathleen O'Toole,  
Takoma Park Poet Laureate

With a recent outburst of crocuses and a few early daffodils, I'm on the hunt for poems of hope, if only to counter the weight of a full year of Covid-related sorrow. It's no wonder that many of the invitations I've received to virtually share my poetry with various audiences this year have supported a collective need to lament, memorialize, and find solace as we count our public and personal losses.

So, it may be even more crucial to



Kathleen O'Toole

**POETRY MONTH** □ Page 3



## FY22 Budget Schedule

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7 – CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING,**  
6:00 PM (Remote/Virtual Meeting)  
**Presentation:**

- City Manager's Presentation of the FY 2022 Recommended Budget

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14 – CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING,**  
7:30 PM (Remote/Virtual Meeting)  
**Public Hearing:**

- Public Hearing on the FY 2022 Recommended Budget

**MONDAY, APRIL 19 – CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION,**  
7:30 PM (Remote/Virtual Meeting)  
• Budget Work Session

**MONDAY, APRIL 26 – CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION,**  
7:30 PM (Remote/Virtual Meeting)  
• Budget Work Session  
• Preliminary Budget Reconciliation

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28 – CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING,**  
7:30 PM (Remote/Virtual Meeting)  
**Public Hearing:**  
• Public Hearing on the FY 2022 Constant Yield Tax Rate  
• Public Hearing on the FY 2022 Budget  
• Public Hearing on Takoma Junction Redevelopment Project

**MONDAY, MAY 3 – CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION,**  
7:30 PM (Remote/Virtual Meeting)  
• Budget Reconciliation

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 12 – CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING,**  
7:30 PM (Remote/Virtual Meeting)  
**Voting Session:**  
• First Reading Ordinance Adopting the FY 2022 Tax Rate  
• First Reading Ordinance Adopting the FY 2022 Stormwater Management Budget  
• First Reading Ordinance Adopting the FY 2022 Budget

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

ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRE-SORT STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
TAKOMA PARK, MD  
PERMIT NO. 4422

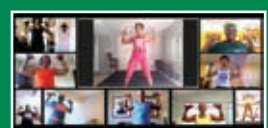
Inside



E-Workshop Series:  
All Things Trees  
Page 4



Big Book  
Club  
Page 7



Total  
Body Blast  
Page 9

# DOCKET

## Official City Government Meetings

### 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.

### UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Wednesday, April 7, 6 p.m., City Council Regular Meeting (beginning with the City Manager's FY 2022 budget presentation)
- Monday, April 12, 6 p.m., City Council Meeting (Takoma Junction Redevelopment Project Overview and Small Group Discussions)
- Wednesday, April 14, 7:30 p.m., City Council Regular Meeting
- Monday, April 19, 7:30 p.m., City Council Budget Work Session
- Wednesday, April 21, 6 p.m., City Council Administrative Function Session (City Manager Search). *Administrative Function Sessions are closed to the public.*
- Monday, April 26, 7:30 p.m., City Council Budget Work Session
- Wednesday, April 28, 7:30 p.m., City Council Regular Meeting
- Monday, May 3, 7:30 p.m., City Council Budget Work Session
- Wednesday, May 5, 7:30 p.m., City Council Regular meeting

### PUBLIC HEARINGS IN APRIL

The City Manager presented her proposed budget to the City Council on Wednesday, April 7.

Budget-related public hearings will take place on April 14 and April 28.

On April 12, there will be an overview of the Takoma Junction Redevelopment Project plan. A public hearing on the project will take place on April 28.

Wednesday, April 14, 7:30 p.m.

- Public Hearing on the Proposed FY 2022 Budget

Wednesday, April 28, 7:30 p.m.

- Public Hearing on the FY 2022 Tax rate (Constant Yield Tax Rate)
- Public Hearing on the FY 2022 Budget
- Public Hearing on the Takoma Junction Redevelopment Project

Information on signing in to the virtual meeting to comment will be provided at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov). Questions may be directed to [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov) or call the City Clerk at 240-723-0437. The hearings will be held in the order listed.

### CITY BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 22, 7 p.m.

### FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, April 13, 6:30 p.m.

### GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

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

### NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.

### PARKING MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

Thursday, April 15, 7:30 p.m.

### POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, April 19, 7 p.m.

### RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 15, 7 p.m.

### REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY TASK FORCE

Tuesday, April 13, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 20, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 27, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 4, 5:30 p.m.

### TREE COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, April 13, 6:30 p.m.

### YOUTH COUNCIL

Sunday, April 11, 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 25, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

At the City Council meeting on **February 24, 2021**, the Council adopted **Resolution 2021-4** appointing members to the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force as follows: Ajmel Quereshi (Ward 3), Christina Morado (Ward 4), Lauren Van Tol (Ward 1), Emil Parker (Ward 5), Sawa Kamara (Ward 5), Jumana Musa (Ward 6), Kiminori Nakamura (Ward 6), Sadie Arlene Cheston Harris (Ward 3), Olajide Atoyebi (Ward 6), Duane Scott (Ward 6), Xitlalli Velasquez (Ward 3), Leon Crowell (Ward 5), Cedric Boatman (formerly of Ward 4), Michael Rubin (Ward 2), Adam Braskich (Ward 6). (Councilmember Smith voted no.)

On **March 3, 2021**, the Council adopted **Resolution 2021-5** recognizing retiring Library Director Ellen Arnold-Robbins. Ms. Arnold-Robbins worked for the Library for 48 years, 38 of them as Library Director. **Resolution**

**2021-6** was adopted, setting forth the Council's priorities for the 2021-2022 City Council term. The following ordinances were adopted: **Ordinance 2021-8** approved FY21 Budget Amendment No. 4 (First Reading took place on February 24) and **Ordinance 2021-9** approved a contract with Resource Management Associates to conduct a promotional process for the Police Department. The contract amount is \$15,000.

At the **March 10, 2021** meeting, the City Council adopted **Resolution 2021-7**, releasing the following from the FY21 Budget "hold list:" Recreation Specialist, Vegetation Maintenance Supervisor, and funds for road maintenance and ADA sidewalk improvements. **Resolution 2021-8** was adopted, demanding fair tax duplication payments from Montgomery County.

## FY 2022 Living Wage Rate Established

Every City contract for the provision of services awarded after a competitive bid or proposal process requires the contractor and any subcontractor to pay each employee assigned to perform services under the City contract a living wage. The current living wage rate is \$15.25 per hour. Effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, the Takoma Park living wage rate will be \$15.40. Certain contracts are exempted from this requirement. Additional information can be found at <https://takomaparkmd.gov/services/bids-contracts>.

## 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. Anyone wishing to share a slide or video must make the request at least 24 hours before the meeting by contacting Mayor Kate Stewart.

The meeting link will be provided by weekly email from the City Clerk and on the City website. For those not able to comment at the meeting, written comments may be sent by email to [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov) to be circulated to the City Council.



# Food Justice DMV brings hope to under-served communities

By Sean Gossard

When the pandemic arose more than a year ago, many were looking around at ways to help their communities that were suffering the hardest. From lack of food and supplies to those in need of rental assistance, many, especially in the immigrant community, have been struggling.

One group that's been helping to feed and provide aid for under-served communities around the area is Food Justice DMV. "We began when the COVID tsunami hit," said Denise Woods, founder of Food Justice DMV. "Everybody needs help at some point in their life. With the pandemic, it laid bare the inequality in the system."

Demand was big and before they knew it thousands were asking for assistance from Food Justice DMV. "We were supporting around 200 people in the system and then we gave out our number and, before you know it, it was shared in this bold act of solidarity," Woods said. "Dozens of parents called every day asking for food for their children. So we went from thinking we would support 200 to around 1,200."

Now, according to Woods, they are serving more than 5,000 people around the area.

To keep up with that demand, Food Justice DMV has partnered with dozens of local aid and religious groups, including DC Central Kitchen, American University and Sanctuary DMV. In Takoma Park, the group has been working with the Takoma Park Seventh-day Adventist Church and Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op to gather and distribute food.

Ross Wells has been working with a crew of around 15 people to help Food Justice DMV distribute food and supplies from the Takoma Park-Silver Spring Food



Volunteers help to distribute food and supplies to neighbors living in the Langley Park area.

Co-op to those under-served communities.

"We distribute food to over 400 families every Thursday," said Wells. "We have six to eight drivers who deliver to five to 15 families each. We also partner with several community groups, including a Muslim community group and renters rights groups."

In addition to giving them space to pack and distribute food, the co-op has also donated or sold at low cost fresh produce to the initiative. "Local businesses have helped, too," Wells said. "The Girl and The Vine and Main Street Pearl have offered their commercial refrigerators for short-term storage, and the Adventist Church helped by storing diapers and other non-food items."

Areas with heavy immigrant populations were of special concern for the group. "A lot of places in the immigrant community are left out completely from

state and federal aid," said Wells. "It's not just them, but we try mostly to serve the undocumented community."

According to Wells, the group gets hundreds of pounds of rice and beans and splits them into meal-sized packages. However, even that isn't enough to feed a family for a full week. "We do the best we can with that and it goes a long way, but we're not part of the county network," he said. "There are so many people helping around the county, and it's not enough for a whole week, but part of getting enough food to survive."

Wells saw the massive need from communities, especially the immigrant community, for assistance during the darkest days of the pandemic. "I was delivering to five families Langley Park in one week, then 20 the next, and a couple weeks after that 40," he said.

Luckily, they had help from members of the Langley Park communities to aid in



Volunteer Greg Pugliese gets some help from Issac at the distribution area in Takoma Park.

communicating with families about their specific needs. "One woman organized the families in the apartment complex, and they have this incredible distribution network," Wells said. "Young women from Central America, mostly El Salvador, and they are so insanely organized and played a big role in the process."

Since beginning more than a year ago, Woods says Food Justice DMV has raised more than half a million dollars in donations from all around the area. "All this led to connections in the community and a partnership with the Capital Area Food Bank," she said. "We're in the process of becoming a full partner with them."

*The group is always looking for volunteers to help pack and distribute the food. If you're looking to help, see the monthly Emergency Preparedness Committee column on page 10 of this issue for more information.*

## POETRY MONTH

■ From page 1

"spring forward" toward hope in poetry this month. I glimpsed that hope in many of the entries we're reviewing for the *Takoma Park Arts* "Sidewalk Poetry Contest" ([takomaparkmd.gov/arts](http://takomaparkmd.gov/arts)). For me, poems that *embody hope* in the face of darkness and death are the most memorable. No doubt the most familiar is Emily Dickinson's # 314:

"Hope" is the thing with feathers –

### Suggested Writing/Reading into Hope for National Poetry Month

We can all catch some of the signs of hope in the coming of spring by noting our fleeting experiences of joy or surprise as we walk, garden, or look out our windows. A few of my recent jottings (haiku in progress?):

afternoon walk...  
bird shadows  
crossing my own

February snow  
buds on the magnolia

towpath hike:  
spring peepers  
out-sing the birds!

That perches in the soul –  
And sings the tune without the words –  
And never stops – at all –

And sweetest – in the Gale – is heard –  
And sore must be the storm –  
That could abash the little Bird  
That kept so many warm –

I've heard it in the chilliest land –  
And on the strangest Sea –  
Yet – never – in Extremity,  
It asked a crumb – of Me.

I *felt* the effort of that "little Bird" singing in the gale, differently this year. How many of us have found momentary comfort or joy in a sparrow or robin, cardinal or woodpecker visiting our yard during periods of lockdown? Hope perching in the soul... "in Extremity," indeed.

This past summer I picked up W. S. Merwin's *Garden Time* (Copper Canyon Press, 2016) likely while finding solace in new yard plantings. I find the delicate

power of these poems – written while Merwin was losing his eyesight – especially evident in poems like "Variations to the Accompaniment of a Cloud," which begins:

*Because I do not hope ever again  
to pass this way I sing these  
notes now in silence  
each in its own time  
one morning near the end of spring  
among the invisible, unheard stars I sing  
this one time with the hope that is here  
in every breath  
may these notes be heard another morning  
in another life  
in another spring together*

To find other "Poems of Hope and Resilience," visit [www.poetryfoundation.org/collections/142028/poems-of-hope-and-resilience](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/collections/142028/poems-of-hope-and-resilience), starting with "Won't you celebrate with me" by the great Lucille Clifton.

A recent favorite of mine that *claims and proclaims* gratitude in the face of all that threatens to undo us is "Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude" by Ross Gay (from the book of the same name). Visit [www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/58762/catalog-of-unabashed-gratitude](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/58762/catalog-of-unabashed-gratitude) for more information.



### THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Apryl Motley  
Assistant: Sean Gossard  
[www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov)  
Vol. 60, No. 4

The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 12 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, [takomaparkmd.gov](http://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](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov)

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

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

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

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

The Newsletter is printed on recycled— content paper.





# BUILDING COMMUNITY

## We Belong Here: The Takoma Park Equity Walk

Wait? What? You haven't experienced We Belong Here? This cool new interactive activity can be accessed on your smart phone by scanning the QR code on the ground near any station. You can even scan the QR code below to see what it's all about. Many of your neighbors have already engaged with this fun, new way to learn about equity.

The winter snow, ice and salt were hard on the stations. If you notice that some of the paint has worn off, don't worry. This spring, We Belong Here will be freshened up with new paint.

Three city staff went out recently to assess the stations, play, talk and learn. At each station, we followed the directions to challenge our bodies by jumping, skipping, balancing and even doing yoga. We took turns asking the prompts associated with each station and an open, sometimes deep and empowering conversation ensued. We explored the experiences we had in common and the ways we were unique. We talked comfortably about race, gender, civil rights, human rights and feeling included. It worked.



We Belong Here felt like a safe place to discuss many of the most pressing issues of our day.

You can do it, too. Choose one or two stations, or follow the ten stations near the Community Center or the seven stations on Anne Street. Plan to be open; plan to share and challenge yourself. Plan to be amazed.

## Spring 2021 E-Workshop Series: All Things Trees

The City of Takoma Park will be offering a round of e-workshops for Takoma Park residents this spring to serve as an opportunity for them to learn about all things trees. This follows a successful round of workshops held this past fall.

Workshop content has been developed by Maryland Sustainable Ecologies and will be presented by ISA Board Certified Master Arborist Richard Jones on Saturdays at 12:30 p.m. Sessions will be conducted using the Zoom video conferencing web platform and will last for 30 minutes with a question and answer period. Workshops will be limited to 25 participants, and signups will be accepted on a rolling basis until the slots are filled. Note that some sessions will cover similar material to the fall series.

### Dates and Topics

- 4/17: Introduction to Invasive Species – Japanese Stiltgrass, Asian Longhorned Beetle, Tree of Heaven, Spotted Lanternfly, Emerald Ash Borer, and Oriental Bittersweet
- 4/24: Urban Forestry – A detailed look at analyzing tree benefits and inventories



All workshops will be held on Saturdays at 12:30 p.m. To sign up, send an email to [urbanforestmanager@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:urbanforestmanager@takomaparkmd.gov) with your name, Takoma Park address, and which workshop you would like to attend.

The Urban Forest Manager email a web link to all registered participants to access the session on the Friday the day before it is scheduled to occur. Simply click the link at the time of the workshop.

### COVID-19 TESTING

**FREE WEEKLY TESTING**

**Takoma Park Recreation Center**  
**7315 New Hampshire Ave**

**Every Saturday - 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM**  
**NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED**

**Details:**

- **Walk-in** COVID-19 testing
- Testing is **FREE**
- **Testing Helpline:** 240-777-1755 for questions or assistance with testing



## Safe Routes to School Supports Back to School Safety

For over a year now, we have been talking about safety of a different sort. Staying safe and healthy has been a prime occupation during these months of fighting the COVID-19 virus on our hands, in our homes and in the community. Now, with students returning to school, we turn our focus to pedestrian and bike safety, too.

During the pandemic, the safest way to get to school may just be the healthiest! Safe Routes to School encourages all students who can to choose walking or biking to school. Many of us incorporated walking and biking into our routine during the shutdown. This is the perfect time to walk or bike with purpose, for transportation to school.

Remember that 25 percent of all rush hour traffic is school related. We have all enjoyed reduced traffic during the last year. Less traffic congestion means reduced auto emissions and fresher air. Walking or biking in the fresh air, with signs of spring all around us, sounds like the right way to get to school.

Ask your students to think back to Kindergarten or first grade when they participated in the Cross Safe Cross Smart pedestrian training exercise at school and to fourth grade when they did the bike rodeo!

Best practices for walking include:

- Crossing at the intersection and when there is a crossing guard always follow directions.

- Stop before crossing.
- Look left, right and left again. If there are cars present, make eye contact with the drivers.
- Ask yourself, "Is it safe to cross?"
- Stay in the crosswalk where you are safest.

When biking, stay safe by:

- Always wearing a helmet when you ride.
- Do the ABC Spin Check: test your tire's Air pressure, the Brakes, Chain and Spin the tires.
- Follow the rules of the road, just like cars do.

Safe Routes to School also helped the schools with keeping students and families safe and healthy when arriving and leaving school. Please follow the recommendations of your school administration to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Look for markings, cones and signs to help you do the right thing.

When you get to school, you will be ready to learn and concentrate on the other ways to stay safe:

- Keep a distance of 6 feet from others.
- Wear your mask.
- Wash your hands often and well.

Whether you are a pedestrian, bicyclist or driver, everyone can do one thing: Look out for each other!



# Exploring a Century of Cinema with Vintage Movie Night Host Richard Hall

Local filmmaker and film historian Richard Hall organizes the popular Vintage Movie Night series, which began in 2013 at the Takoma Park Community Center. The series is continuing with new online screenings on the *Takoma Park Arts* YouTube channel (<https://bit.ly/3tVDTgL>). Sometimes wearing a wig or sunglasses, Hall has explored short vintage films spanning a century on a wide range of topics, including civil rights films, vintage horror films, quirky travelogues, and propaganda cartoons.

Arts and Humanities Division Coordinator Brendan Smith spoke with Hall recently about the inspiration for the Vintage Movie Night series and his own filmmaking career.

**Q: Why did you start the Vintage Movie Night series at the Takoma Park Community Center?**

**Hall:** I was inspired by archive film superhero Rick Prelinger, who has collected thousands of films and made them available in the Prelinger Archives (<https://archive.org/details/prelinger>). He organizes programs called “Lost



Above: Advertisement for February film screening

At left: Sometimes wearing a wig or sunglasses, Richard Hall has explored short vintage films spanning a century.



Landscapes,” which combine vintage home movies, films, and outtakes to create visual portraits of different cities, including San Francisco and Detroit.

I thought we should have a Lost Landscapes of Washington, D.C., so the first Vintage Movie Night featured archival films of the D.C. area ranging from early 1900s silent films to the 1970s. I spend a lot of time watching old films on a computer, but these films were almost all designed to be viewed with an audience. The experience of sitting in the Community Center with an audience has been very rewarding for me, and I hope for the audience.

**Q: Why do you like vintage films? How have films evolved over the past century?**

**Hall:** Watching vintage documentary and educational films is like stepping into a time machine. They are a reflection of American society – sometimes good, sometimes bad. Students and educators can learn a great deal about what life was like in the 1930s from a New Deal documentary about the Civilian Conservation Corps. Films are artifacts of history, and we are lucky to have free access to thousands of public-domain films.

It's hard to summarize how films have evolved, but I usually screen “ephemeral” films that were often made for a specific purpose. They have gradually become more fast-paced, more inclusive of women and minorities, and less triumphalist about America. It is truly sad and frustrating

that through most of the 20th century, films were dominated by white males and often condescending to everyone else, but there are many wonderful exceptions.

**Q: You also are a filmmaker. Do you get inspiration for your own work from vintage films?**

**Hall:** Yes! My most recent independent film, co-produced by my wife Simone, is called *Confounding Father: A Contrarian View of the U.S. Constitution*. It's available to rent or buy on Vimeo ([vimeo.com/ondemand/confounding](https://vimeo.com/ondemand/confounding)). The four-part series is chock full of clips of vintage archival films about the U.S. government and Constitution. Most of them are 1950s Cold War-era films that completely ignore slavery so they are very useful in illustrating what *Confounding Father* hopes to demonstrate. The Founding Fathers were not a monolith and made mistakes, and we've been trying to sweep those flaws under the carpet and make excuses for slavery. The archival films show how we sanitized history, but they also can be funny and entertaining.

**Q: Everyone is stuck inside during the pandemic. Do you think films provide both a creative outlet and a means of escaping the never-ending stress, like “Netflix and chill.”**

**Hall:** Most people I know have been watching much more media now. The documentary world is exploding with material, but the problem for small-budget filmmakers is cutting through the noise to reach audiences. Mindless entertainment also can be a vital distraction from reality, and we all need that now. But we also need to get outside and walk around our neighborhoods, and everyone I know has been doing that more too.

**Q: What work do you do at C-SPAN?**

**Hall:** I have worked for C-SPAN's American History TV since 2010. I create and produce a weekly series called *Reel America* with archival films that provide context for today's public-affairs issues. I also produce about a dozen episodes of the *American Artifacts* series each year. I visit museums and historic places with a camera, and I have an expert tour guide tell me stories about a subject related to American history. I have been lucky to travel across the United States, including tours of Ellis Island, San Francisco's Chinatown, and Little Tokyo in Los Angeles.

**Q: How do you pick the themes for your screenings? What were some of your favorites?**

**Hall:** During the pandemic, I have selected film topics that are entertaining and a bit lighter. It has been a very tough year, and I don't want to be another downer. However, I do try to incorporate underserved audiences. These films are usually white-male dominated, so I've organized screenings about immigrants and refugees, civil rights struggles, and Black musicians and artists. My favorite screenings are the ones with the biggest turnout and the most interesting audience discussions. The civil rights and sex education screenings were two of my favorites.

**Q: You sometimes dress up in costumes or adopt different characters in your online screenings. Are you making it more fun since we're all stuck at home?**

**Hall:** I have a long history of being a ham, and I created silly 8mm films even when I was 12 years old. I believe a little silliness is essential in trying times. Even if the audience thinks I'm weird, I have lots of fun putting on one of my wigs (I have a large collection) and trying to make my appearances funny or entertaining. I also had fun writing the theme song.



BUDGET
From page 1

you! You can also tune in to City Council work sessions to review the details of the budget on Monday, April 19 and Monday, April 26. The Fiscal Year 2022 budget work sessions and public hearings will culminate in a final budget reconciliation session on May 3. Council-recommended changes will be incorporated, and the City Council will vote to adopt the revised Fiscal Year 2022 Budget and Fiscal Year 2022 tax rate during the May 12 and May 19 Council meetings.

The Fiscal Year 2022 budget theme is "Planning for a New Day" and reflects our optimism that the light at the end of the pandemic tunnel is in sight thanks to accelerating vaccinations and State and Federal initiatives. The Fiscal Year 2022 budget supports a full reopening of City services by January 2022. This time last year, the City Council, the City Manager, and City staff budgeted amidst considerable uncertainty in the early phase of the pandemic. We cut our Fiscal Year 2021 budget significantly to reflect COVID-19 service reductions. The Fiscal Year 2022 Proposed Budget reverses the Fiscal Year 2021 COVID-19 cuts and begins to restore City services to pre-pandemic levels.

FY22 Budget Context

Due to declining City revenues over time, the FY22 Proposed Budget has to be a "lean" budget. There is very little expansion of City services or new purchases proposed in this budget. The number of full-time staff is slightly reduced overall. To the extent that limited new spending is proposed, the budget includes a property tax increase to cover those costs. Tax revenues have not kept pace with the cost of City services over time, particularly with persistently low tax duplication rebates from Montgomery County.

The FY22 proposed tax rate is 55 cents, compared to the current tax rate of 53.97 cents and constant yield tax rate of 52.95 cents (constant yield is the tax rate that would lead to no increase in revenue from the prior year). The 2.03 cent increase

over constant yield covers a proposed personnel cost increase of 2 percent and a \$300,000 set-aside for implementation of Council Priorities. The allocation of that \$300,000 will be determined by Council during budget reconciliation.

Fiscal Year 2022 is an unusual budget year because the City will receive approximately \$14.8 million in federal aid under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). ARPA funds can be spent on revenue replacement, COVID-19 assistance to families and businesses, broadband, water and sewer infrastructure, and mitigation of the economic impacts of COVID-19. Using ARPA, we hope to temporarily expand City services to fulfill the new goals and initiatives laid out in City Council's updated Priorities Framework. For example, City Council's new framework prioritizes the expansion of emergency assistance for residents and businesses recovering from COVID-19 repercussions, as well as new

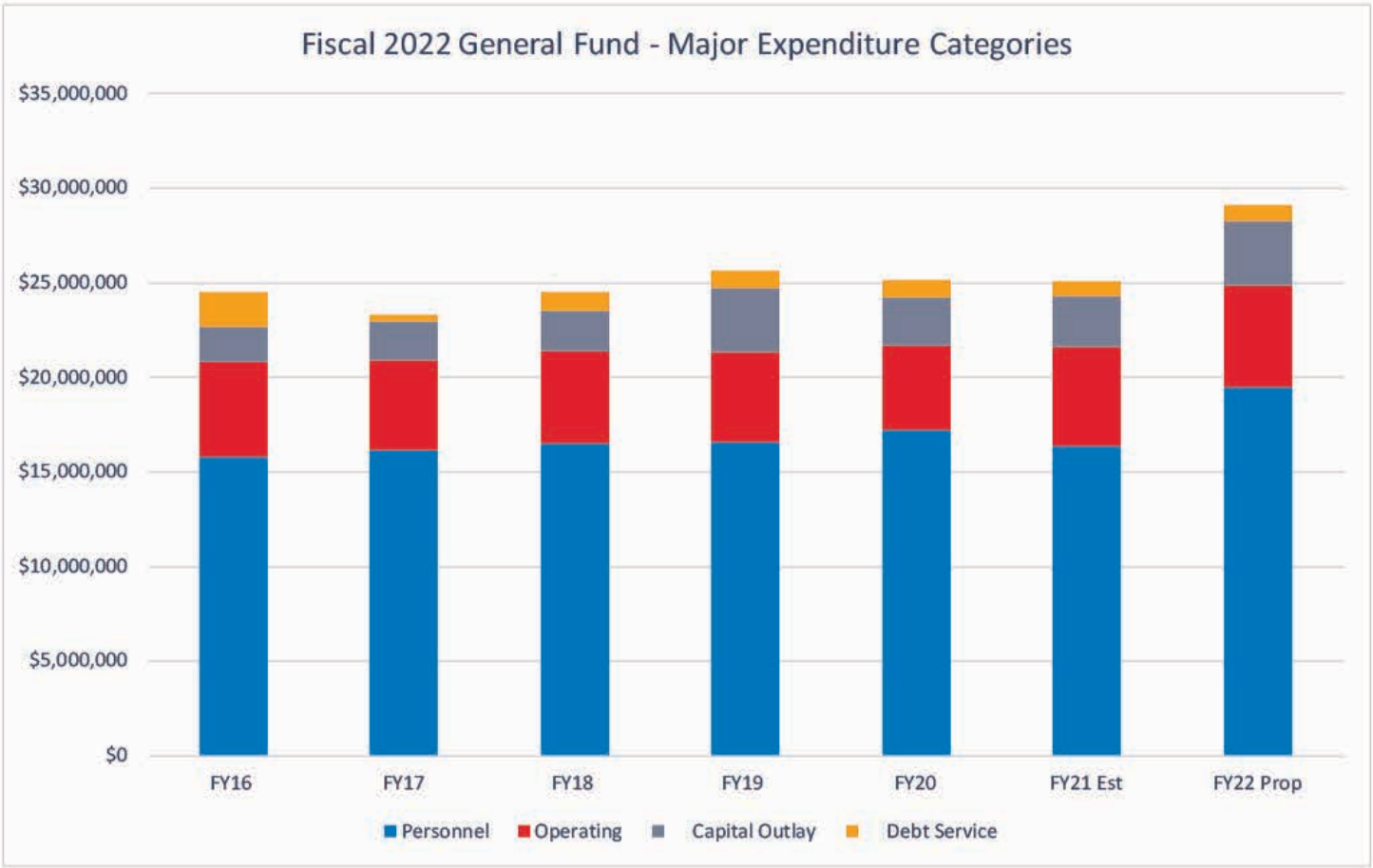
strategies for public engagement and technology modernization.

Even with the large influx of federal aid, a property tax rate increase is still necessary. The City cannot rely on ARPA funding as an ongoing revenue source in our formulation of the budget. The full \$14.8 million in federal funds must be spent by December 2024, or the remaining funds will be returned to the State. Further, we do not know exactly how the funds can be spent yet. The U.S. Treasury Department will be releasing specific guidance in the coming weeks. ARPA funds are therefore not included in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget except to cover some revenue replacement. Over the next few months, City Council and City staff will work to develop a proposed spending plan for ARPA and administer the first \$7.4 million portion available in Fiscal Year 2022 using budget amendments.

A Budget for A New Day

In summary, the Fiscal Year 2022 Proposed Budget is a maintenance of service budget. It restores pre-pandemic service levels but proposes few additional expenditures. We look forward to receiving public feedback on the Fiscal Year 2022 Proposed Budget and strategizing as a community in the coming months on how to spend ARPA funds.

One of the most exciting things about Fiscal Year 2022 is that the budget will be implemented with new City leadership. We will hire a new City Manager, Housing and Community Development Director, and Deputy Public Works Director in Fiscal Year 2022, and a new Library Director is already on board. With new leadership, the Fiscal Year 2022 budget will advance new Council goals and support reopening and recovery for a new day in Takoma Park.



Safe Grow Garden Photo Contest Is Back! • April 1–24

The City of Takoma Park would like to announce that the Safe Grow Garden Photo Contest is back! The photo contest began on April 1! This year's theme is **Together We Bloom**.

**Together We Bloom** focuses on unity within our City. We can all agree 2020 was a tough year. However, one main takeaway is that our community came together; from helping each other feel safe during the pandemic. As a community we will continue to bloom together. We shall flourish.

The Safe Grow Garden Photo Contest runs April 1–24. All photo submissions must be sent BEFORE the April 24 deadline.

How does the contest work?

Is your lawn, apartment, and/or patio garden free of synthetic pesticides (including herbicides and fungicides) and

safe for wildlife, pets, and people? Interpret the theme as you wish and show us your meaning through photography. The contest will have first place, second place, and third place winners. The winners will receive the Safe Grow Garden Photo Contest Flag!

Contest Rules:

- Must be an original color or black and white photograph.
- Only Takoma Park residents are eligible.
- The garden, vegetables, plants, or flowers featured must be from a Takoma Park patio, yard, garden, porch, deck, etc. that abides by the Takoma Park Safe Grow Act. \* For more information on the Safe Grow Act, visit <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/neighborhood-services/safegrow>.

- By submitting photos, you grant permission for your photo to be used by the City of Takoma Park on social media, websites, and any marketing campaigns.

How to Submit:

- You can submit your photo through social media and or email.
- **Social media:** Please submit photos by using the #TogetherWeBloomTKPK on the social media platform of your preference (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram). Don't forget to use the hashtag and tag us!
- **Email:** You can also email us your photos. Email the photo to [cindym@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:cindym@takomaparkmd.gov). Please include your name, phone number, and email address.

To learn more information about the contest, visit <https://bit.ly/3s8U7ln>.



Photo by Cynthia Terrell





## Reflections on an Uncommon Year

By Karen MacPherson

Our building may be closed, but the library is very much open! That's become the daily mantra of the staff of the Takoma Park Maryland Library since we closed our building due to Covid a little over a year ago. Yes, patrons still can't come into our building, but the library staff continues to work hard for our patrons through our visible public programs



Books-to-Go packaging and materials

like our "Books to Go" curbside service and through the many off-desk tasks – such as choosing, ordering and cataloging new books – required to keep our collection up to date.

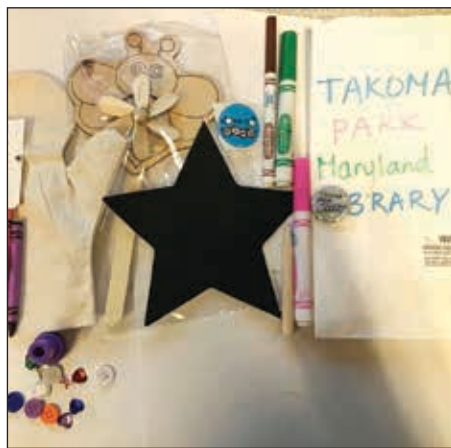
But there has definitely been a learning curve as we all – patrons and library staff alike – adjusted to the new realities imposed by Covid. When our building closed on March 13, 2020, for example, staffers were not allowed in the building and so we all worked remotely from our homes. We really thought we'd re-open within a month.

While patrons could not check out physical books at this point, our library continued to offer books and other resources digitally. We have a robust suite of digital resources, and patrons took full advantage of resources like Hoopla, which offers e-books and audiobooks for kids and adults, music, movies, and TV shows.

Over time, small numbers of library

staffers could do their work in the library building instead of remotely; the numbers of staff working in the building at one time still are kept small to ensure Covid safety. Then, at the beginning of July, we began our "Books to Go" curbside service program. Since then, we have checked out more than 18,000 items to patrons! Over time, we've expanded the program's hours and added "Books to You," a home delivery service for Takoma Park residents.

Meanwhile, our Children's Librarian, Kati Nolfi, started up a "Crafts to Go" program, putting out 25 bags each Saturday for many weeks. From July 2020 through February 2021, the library has



Craft bag materials

distributed 630 "Crafts to Go" to happy young patrons. The "Crafts to Go" giveaway continues each week. Young patrons just need to look for the purple cart at our "Books to Go" pick-up spot beginning at noon on Saturdays.

As for library programs, Library Associate Dave Burbank helped us to quickly pivot onto Zoom as he already had some experience in doing online programs. Within two weeks of our March 13 building closing, Dave was up and running with Zoom versions of two kids' programs, Comics Jam and Scribbler's Cabal, which continue. With help from Dave, I restarted our popular Circle Time program on Zoom last April, and Senora

## CALENDAR

The library building is closed, but we're continuing to offer several great library programs – weekly and monthly – via Zoom. To participate, go to <https://zoom.us>. Click on "Join a Meeting" and put in the Meeting ID (and Meeting PW, if any) listed with each program. Registration 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](http://www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryprograms). Please refresh your browser first to ensure you get the most updated information. Also, please make sure you register for the "Zoom" version of these programs.

**Starting this month, we also are offering an in-person, registration-only program: Outdoor Yoga Storytime on most Sundays at 10 a.m. See listing for more information.**

**PROGRAMS:** To keep up with all our programs, go to [www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents](http://www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents).

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

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

**Zoom Comics Jam:** Once a month, generally on the second Wednesday at 4 p.m. The next date is April 14. To keep up with the schedule, please register for Zoom Comics Jam at [www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents](http://www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents); we'll send an email with the next date to all registered. The Meeting ID for Zoom Comics Jam is 734-913-6285. No Meeting Password needed.

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

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

**Outdoor Yoga Storytime:** Most Sundays at 10 a.m. (April, May & June) outside the Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Ave.) The 30-minute program is for ages 3 and up, but supervised younger siblings are welcome. Face masks are required. Spaces are limited for social distancing, so registration is required. To register, go to [www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryprograms](http://www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryprograms).



Katie Knows Storytime videos

Geiza brought her Spanish Circle Time to Zoom in June.

Also, Kati Nolfi began making the first of dozens of short Storytime Videos and posting them on the YouTube channel she created, Kati Knows Storytime. Kati also offered first a Zoom version of Yoga Storytime and then brought it outdoors in the nice weather. Her Outdoor Yoga Storytime starts up again this month.

In the background of all of these efforts – "Books to Go" curbside service, "Books

LIBRARY □ Page 11



Outdoor Yoga Storytime

## Big Book Club

This is a reminder about the upcoming online meetings of the Takoma Park Big Book Club. Normally, of course, we tackle "big" books like *War and Peace* or *Middlemarch*. Over eleven years, we have looked at a lot of such books. This time we're doing something different, looking at "little" (but still significant) books, namely short stories.

Our selection represents a sampling of many of what are considered to be the best stories by the best authors, covering a variety of styles and perspectives. Here is a schedule of specific story selections

and dates for our Zoom meetings. (**Note:** We'll be skipping the week of April 14.) The four sessions will be all Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. And this time, so that we're all on the same page, as it were, we'll use a specific text, *The Art of the Short Story* (2005) edited by Dana Gioia and R. S. Gwynn. Copies are available from Amazon and from the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

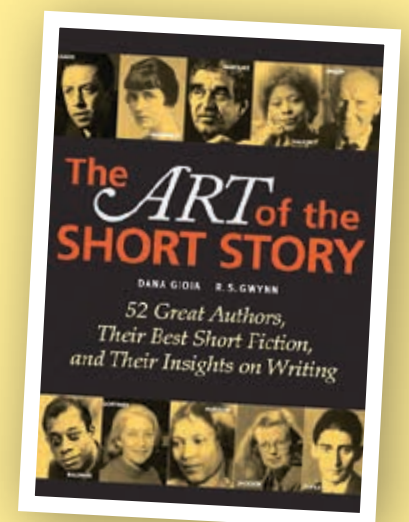
- April 7: Margaret Atwood, Happy Endings; James Baldwin, Sonny's Blues
- April 21: Anton Chekhov, Misery; Ralph Ellison, A Party Down at the Square

- April 28: Herman Melville, Bartleby, the Scrivener; Chinua Achebe, Dead Men's Path
- May 5: Zora Neale Hurston, Sweat; and Isaac Bashevis Singer, Gimpel the Fool.

A few days before the first meeting I'll send club members the needed Zoom link. And anyone can become a member. It's free.

For more information on joining the Big Book Club, go to [ftpm.org/upcoming-events](http://ftpm.org/upcoming-events).

—Phil Schewe





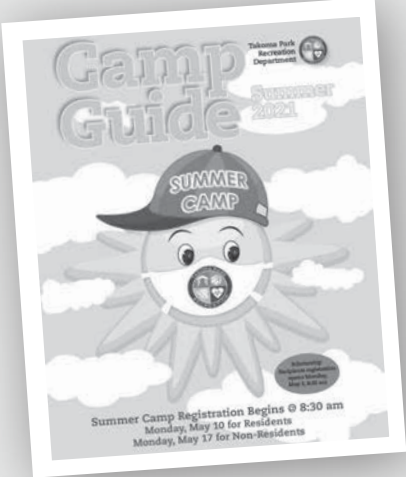
# RECREATION

Virtual class links can be found on the Virtual Community Center page:  
[takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc](http://takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc).  
For a full list of classes, see the Spring/Summer City Guide inside this issue!

## So That All Takoma Park Residents Can Play...

See page 35 of the Spring/Summer Guide for information about scholarships available for recreation programming.

### CAMP



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

## VIRTUAL CLASSES

### YOUTH

#### DANCE

##### Youth Dance

We encourage you to join us as Ms. Charonne teaches a different dance technique weekly. Show off your skills in this free and fun class. Be sure to get to class a few minutes early. Clear the floor and get ready to move! Instructor: Charonne Butler  
5–12 years  
Sundays, 11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.  
Starts April 4  
Free

#### ART

##### Be Creative Arts and Crafts with Carla

Working with recycled materials to create usable artwork. Projects will include creating with paper, card stock, plastic bottles, yarn, string, boxes and more. Supplies needed can be found in your home or can be picked up at the instructor's home across from the Takoma Park Community Center. Students will learn to make block letters, origami, tie knots, braid and sewing by hand. Instructor: Carla Perlo  
6–13 years  
Saturdays, 12–12:30 p.m.  
Starts April 3  
Free

#### FITNESS

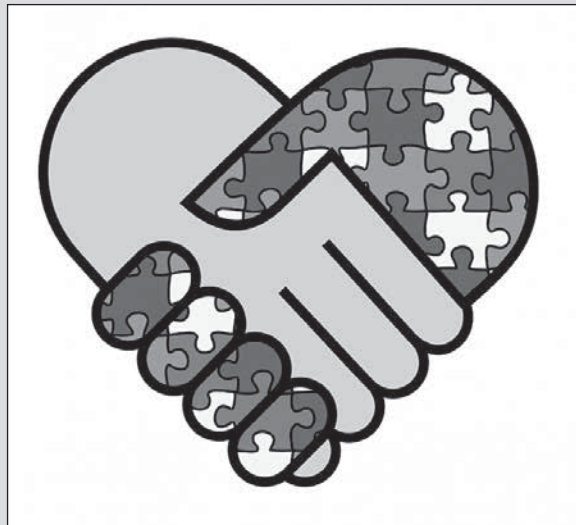
##### Recess Break

It's Zoom Recess! Join Ms. Charonne every Saturday at 10 a.m. for stretching and fun fitness! Spreading the word spreads more fun! Instructor: Charonne Butler  
5–12 years  
Saturdays, 10:30–11 a.m.  
Starts April 3  
Free

##### Let's Grow Gardening & Garden Art with Carla

Develop your green thumb by learning about plants, starting your own container garden, germinating plants from seeds, creating new plants from cuttings and creating art projects with themes from the garden. Learn to make your own containers and garden tools from recycled materials. In necessary supplies (pots, soil, seeds, and cuttings) will be provided by the instructor. Supplies can be picked up at the instructor's home across from the Takoma

## SPECIAL WORKSHOP FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



Park Community Center. Instructor: Carla Perlo  
6–13 years  
Saturdays, 1–1:30 p.m.  
Starts April 3  
Free

### TEENS

#### ART

##### Art Elements

This free virtual class engages grades 6–12 in a variety of art & craft techniques, using easy-to-source materials and mediums (inexpensive, common household items, etc.) in the safety and convenience of their own homes. Students will be able to create a finished (or nearly finished) piece of artwork by the end of each class. Instructor: Shannon Tomac  
Grades 6–12  
Mondays, 4–5 p.m.  
April 19–May 10  
Free

#### EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

##### Teenage Money Management

This financial literacy program specifically focused 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, Credit Reports, Opening a Bank Account, Student Loans and Budgeting. Registration is required via ActiveNet. Once registered you will receive a Zoom link on emailed receipt. Instructor: Tyrona Boone of Zoey & Zander. For more information, contact Javonte McDonald at [javontem@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:javontem@takomaparkmd.gov).  
Mondays  
April 12–May 24  
Grades 5–8: 4–4:45 p.m.  
Grades 9–12: 5–5:45 p.m.  
Free

## In-Person, Outdoor class

### Mindful Movement for Teens

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

### Autism Acceptance Month: Lava Lamps & Sensory Glitter Globes

This event is a part of Shine Brighter Together: Autism Acceptance Month in Montgomery County. Using common household items participants will be able to create Lava Lamps & Sensory Glitter Globes. This is a STEAM project that will entertain for hours! Our special ingredients react in the bottle to create sparkles, bubbles, and swirls. This virtual workshop is free, but registration is required via ActiveNet. For more information, contact Javonte McDonald at [javontem@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:javontem@takomaparkmd.gov). Instructor: Shannon Tomac

All ages  
Wednesday, April 14  
4–5 p.m.  
Free



#### Virtual Wall Street

Students will learn about the stock market, the role of all the related financial institutions, and how they all come together. Each session has a different focus. We will learn three focus topics: How does Wall Street work? Financial Technology and Jobs. Registration is required via ActiveNet. Once registered, you will receive a class link on the emailed receipt. Instructor: Powel Deslandes. For more information, contact Javonte McDonald at [javontem@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:javontem@takomaparkmd.gov).  
13–18 years  
6 Week Session  
Fridays, 4–5 p.m.  
April 16–May 21  
Free

#### FITNESS

##### Commit 2 B Fit

Get your yoga mat and water bottles and join us virtually on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. for a fun and energized session to work out and get fit. Limited spaces available; registration required.  
Grades 6–12  
Saturdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.  
April 10–June 12  
Free

#### SOCIAL

##### Friday Night Lights

Join us every second of Friday of the month for a fun-filled Friday Night. Each month we will host a different event to include movie watch parties, DJ dance offs, Minute to Win It games, trivia, and game nights to include a few. Prizes will be given, and you can enter to win a family pizza night on us! This is a virtual program. For more information, please contact Leicia Monfort at [leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov).  
Grades 6–12  
Fridays, 5–6:30 p.m.  
April 9, May 14 & June 11  
Free

##### Teen Talk Tuesdays

Join Ms. Leicia at 5 p.m. for Teen Talk Tuesdays.



Grab your seats, and we'll bring the "tea"! Let's talk about fashion, fads, questions, advice, current events, etc. You name it! Some weeks we will have experts or special guests join in on the conversations. This is a virtual session. For more information, please contact Leicia Monfort at [leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov).

Grades 6–12  
Tuesdays, 5–6 p.m.  
April 13–June 8  
Free

#### ART

##### Pandamit Painting

Get instruction in how to paint with acrylics with topics such as values, color mixing, complimentary colors, and mixed media. The purpose is also to support and assist each other in this time of restrictions and to provide a fun and informative activity. The students are responsible for their own materials. A list of the supplies suggested will be given to students, as well as ideas on how to find these supplies inexpensively. Instructor: Alice Sims  
16 and older  
Saturdays, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.  
Starts April 3  
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 up  
Thursdays, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.  
April 8–May 27  
Free



##### Foundational Fitness & Training II

FFT II is a fitness program for participants that have or are currently involved in a fitness regimen. The program builds on the concepts of Classic FFT, which utilizes various movements from numerous disciplines while utilizing minimal resistance and multiple repetitions. This class adds more resistance and incorporates floor or mat exercises using hand weights; bands/tubes; abdominal rollers, and exercise balls. All equipment will need to be provided by the participants. FFT II will enhance tone/strengthen



# RECREATION

Virtual class links can be found on the Virtual Community Center page: [takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc](http://takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc).  
For a full list of classes, see the Spring/Summer City Guide inside this issue!

## VIRTUAL CLASSES

all major muscle groups; increase stamina and flexibility. Instructor: Michael Williams  
18 and older  
Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.  
Starts April 3  
Free

### Meditation, Mudras & Yoga

Part class, part experience, dive into the world of guided meditation along with hand mudras, gestures that promote healing, psychological balance, and spiritual awakening. The use of mudras has been used 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 understand the asanas better holistically for yourself and enhance your practice. 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.  
Starts May 5  
Free



### Let's Move Caribbean Dance

Dance your worries away with this fun, energetic, and easy to follow dance workout. Afro-Caribbean fitness dance class is for all ages and will get the body moving to build cardio endurance and coordination. Instructor: KJ Total Fitness  
All Ages  
Fridays, 6–7 p.m.  
Starts April 2  
Free

### ReVamp Fit Home Workout

Fitness class will entail movements to work on your total body endurance, strength, and flexibility. Move with us to get your day started on a strong note! Instructor: Abel Asafere  
16 and older  
Wednesdays, 10–11 a.m.  
Starts April 7  
Free

### Rise and Move

This class will strengthen your muscles (including your heart), increase mobility in your joints, provide you with energy and improve your coordination. Your coach will educate, guide, and assist you throughout the entire class to ensure you are performing movements safely and effectively. Equipment needed: Floor space, high back chair, mat, and weights (optional).  
18 and up  
Mondays, 10–11 a.m.  
April 5-May 24  
Free

### Spirit Group Fitness

Class will be geared toward supporting all members of the community, as each class spotlights trainers leading versions of the exercises for those standing, seated, progressed, and exercising alongside a supporter (which is a great option for those with limited mobility or with a developmental disability). Truly, a person of any fitness and ability level can get a meaningful exercise experience from these classes. Instructor: Spirit Club  
16 and older  
New videos uploaded to site each Wednesday  
Starts April 7  
Free

### Stretch and Strengthen

Work out with a certified fitness coach that will lead you through a class that will increase your flexibility and help tone your muscles. This class is for all fitness levels and you are encouraged to work at your own pace.  
16 and up  
Mondays, 6–6:30 p.m.  
April 5-May 24  
Free

### Sun Light Qi Gong

Sunlight Qi Gong is a powerful, beautiful series of movements designed to increase the practitioner's connection to the vitality, warmth, joy, & heart energy of the sun. As spring wakens flowers and beckons us outdoors, Sunlight Qi Gong helps us access our vital "Qi" energy within ourselves and in nature, balancing the Yin of winter with the bright, active Yang energy of Spring. Join today! Your health is in your hands! No experience needed. Instructor: Patrick Smith  
16 and older  
Tuesdays, 7–7:30 p.m.  
Starts April 6  
Free

### Total Body Blast

This class provides a mix of calisthenics, balance, strength training, and cardiovascular exercise in one dynamic session. Participants will work at their own pace to complete the workout that focuses on all major muscle groups. Instructor: KJ Total Fitness  
16 & up  
Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.  
Starts April 3  
Free

### Yoga (beginner)

This Zoom class will get you on your feet, stretching and reaching; energize you when you feel dull and bring calm on stressful days. Appropriate for seniors. No prior experience needed. Equipment: Yoga mat, 2 blocks, 2 blankets, and 1 belt. Instructor: Tehseen Chettri  
18 and older  
Wednesdays, 5:30–6:30 p.m.  
Starts April 7  
Free

## MARTIAL ARTS

### Karate Self Defense

Promote physical fitness, self-defense, leadership, and cultural exchange through the practice of a traditional Okinawan karate style, Isshinryu (which means One Heart Way). This class will consist of warm-ups, stretching, and learning and practicing Isshinryu Karate upper and lower body basics.  
16 and up  
Mondays, 6:30–7 p.m.  
April 5-May 24  
Free

## MULTIMEDIA

### Digital Marketing

We are all experts of something, and someone is looking to benefit from your expertise. Learn the key digital marketing skills that can help you monetize your expertise. In this course, you will learn how to navigate the digital world to sell a product or your services. This virtual class will cover ideation to activation and market research; which platforms are best for your business; effective social media ads and how to set them up; how to build a website layout that converts into sales; live interviews with digital consultants, hairstylists, clothing designers and organizational leaders on how they use the digital world to grow their business. Instructor: Vinny Mwano  
16 years and older  
Thursdays, 6–7 p.m.  
Starts April 1  
Free

### Voice Overs...Now is your time!

In what could be the most enlightening two hours you have ever spent, this class will show you how you can begin using your speaking voice for commercials, films, videos, and more. Most people go about it the wrong way. In this introductory class, you will learn about a unique, outside the box way to break into this creative, fulfilling, and potentially lucrative industry. Voice-overs can be managed on your own terms, on your own turf, in your own time, and with minimal overhead. Whether you choose to pursue voice-overs part-time or full-time, this could be the game changer you've been looking for. Instructor: Nicole Porsch  
18 years and older  
One Day Session  
Monday, 6:30–8:30 p.m.  
May 10  
Free

## EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

### Writing Life Stories

Are you at home thinking about life? This is a terrific time to write about your life. Whether you have been writing for years or are a beginner, this class is for you. We help each other with constructive feedback and complete 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.  
Starts April 7

RECREATION □ Page 11

## Get Out and Play!

By Leicia Monfort

It has been an entire year since we have first experienced COVID-19, and I don't know about you, but my body is screaming for some fresh air and movement. We have been following the CDC recommendations to ensure the health and safety of everyone and will continue to do so while being able to enjoy ourselves.

A few things that I have found helpful with staying active and healthy both physically and mentally are listed below.

- **Mindful meditation:** I downloaded a meditation app and a yoga app. Starting out each day with at least 10–15 minutes of meditation and yoga have helped me start the day with my mind at peace and positive energy.
- **Talking walks:** Walking offers numerous health benefits. It may also help prevent certain diseases and even prolong your life. It is free to do and easy to fit into your daily schedule. All you need is a good pair of walking shoes (I add music to make it more fun and livelier.).
- **Physical fitness (outdoor or virtual classes):** Walking is one way to get your body moving, but I also went ahead and joined the Commit 2 B Fit classes on Saturday mornings to get into shape. At the end of each workout, I have more energy and I feel much better about my decision to be healthy and active.



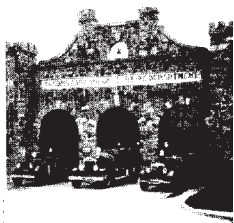
These participants get up early on Saturdays to start of their weekend with Kim James in her Total Body Blast class.

- **Intentional time with family:** My screen time has increased during the shutdown due to COVID-19. Because of such, I was drained and tired and was not spending much time with family. I have learned to manage my time, take frequent breaks, and intentionally plan my time so we are all happy and spending quality time together.
- **Cooking new foods:** Google and YouTube have been my best friends. I search random recipes and try them out and the food has been, oh so good! I even purchased a few new cookbooks. Sometimes we cook together as a family. My family's favorite recipes so far have been The Funny Momma's cheesesteak quesadilla and Dash of Dacy's Lasagna.
- **Baking:** Let's just say, I am an expert at baking cookies, cakes, brownies, and pies now. Regardless of what you choose to do or what works for you, make sure you are taking care of yourself first: mind, body, and spirit. We care about you and cannot wait to be able to see you in person.

**Special Note:** Visit the Takoma Park Recreation Department Virtual Community Center at [takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc](http://takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc) to see all the fun happenings going on that can help with ways to keep your mental and physical self active and engaged.

Be Determined! Stay Committed and Have Fun! We're in this Together!





## THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

### Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland Fire Marshal Office reported as of April 5, 2021, 22 people have died in fires compared to 14 in 2020.

### Safety message

Tips to prevent falls for older adults:

- Exercise regularly will help build strength and improves balance and coordination.

- Take your time in getting out of chairs and get your balance before you walk.
- Keep stairs and walking areas free of clutter.
- Wear sturdy, well-fitted, low-heeled shoes with non-slip soles. It's a fact... falls are the leading cause of death from unintentional injury in the home.

### It's Spring Clean-Up Time!

Let this be the time to rid your home of potential fire and tripping hazards. Check the basement, attic, closets and other storage areas, remove old newspapers, paints, old wrapping paper, and rubbish should be discarded. Finally, don't forget to check your smoke alarms. Remember, good housekeeping can aid in the prevention of a fire or injury. Let's start the clean-up today!

## "Books-to-Go" Curbside Service and "Books to You" Home Delivery Service

You can request books by email (strongly preferred) and phone. Emails can be sent any time, of course. Phone requests can be made Monday through Friday, from noon until 6 pm, at 240-507-0229.

Books can be picked up via our "Books to Go" curbside service from 2–8, Monday-Friday, and 12–6 p.m. on Saturdays. Call 301-580-0085 when you get to our pick-up spot off the library parking lot and we'll bring out your books and leave them on the table for you.

If you cannot make it to the library to pick up books and you live in Takoma Park, you can request our "Books to You" home delivery service. Just note that you



want delivery in your email or phone request. Book deliveries are available 12–3 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. These are the basics. More details can be found at [www.takomapark.info/library/curbside.html](http://www.takomapark.info/library/curbside.html).

## Being Prepared and Taking Action: Helping those who need food



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

As we know, COVID-19 can cause death. COVID -19 has resulted in another ongoing pain, severe food shortage. Too many families, having lost jobs and other income, cannot afford to buy food. Aware of this emergency, two groups in our area were prepared and have responded to this need for over a year: Food Justice DMV and Takoma Park Middle School Cluster.

**Food Justice DMV** ([www.foodjusticedmv.org](http://www.foodjusticedmv.org)): A year ago, as Covid spread in earnest, Denise Woods transformed her work with immigrants into an organization that provides food and non-perishables. Since the beginning, about 5,000 families have been helped, including about 1,000 babies. This program distributes food items, such as beans, produce, rice, oil, and maseca and as well as baby wipes, sanitary napkins, masks, and diapers.

Food Justice recipients get the non-perishable items delivered directly from the organization. The food is distributed by community groups that get large bags of the food items, break them into smaller units, and deliver to community groups in churches, apartment complexes, and other areas. These groups then distribute the food to the local families.

There are three weekly food distribution locations: Fairfax Virginia (Tuesday), Takoma Park Co-op (Thursday), and Washington DC (Saturday). The food gets to the community groups with the help of 75 volunteer drivers. Financial donations and contributions from 29 organizations (see Partners on the website) make the group's work possible.

And if that support wasn't enough, Food Justice DMV also has "Resource Coaches" who speak to families who have "needs for support that are mysteries they have not been able to solve. Coaches convey current info on everything from food 'grab and go's' to electric bills, health insurance, and more."

For help, contact the Intake Hotline at 410-849-9886, or visit the website.

**Takoma Park Middle School Cluster Food Support** (<https://tpespta.net/donations/takoma-food>): The school distribution centers provide food for 250–300 families twice a month. This includes produce, meat, and dairy. This is possible due to the strong support of Adventist Community Services, Manna Food Bank, the National Parent Teacher Association, and individual donations. Food can be picked up across from East Silver Spring Elementary School; in the Takoma Park Middle School parking lot; and at Takoma and East Silver spring elementary schools.

- East Silver Spring Elementary School & Church of the Ascension: shelf-stable food, first and third Saturday mornings each month
- Takoma Park Middle School: Produce, every other Wednesday morning
- Takoma Park Elementary School and East Silver Spring Elementary School: Curbside breakfast and lunch meals on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 11–1.

The program is coordinated by six PTA volunteers and the faculty advisor of the Difference Makers (<https://difference-makers.org>), an organization started by Takoma Park Middle School students in 2009. Difference Makers, which has had a monthly food distribution program since 2016, joined with the School Clusters a year ago to expand the distributions.

How is it still possible that in this country there are people who cannot afford food for their families and themselves? Can we wait to find out why? No! Food Justice DMV and the School Cluster Food Support didn't wait; they acted now. Please share this information

*It's easy to contact us at [tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7126. Join us at Talk of Takoma WOWD/LP 94.3, Sundays, 1–3 for "Dear Bea(trice) Prepared."*



## Takoma Park Safe Routes to School 5K (TKPK5K)

Plans are in the works for a Virtual TKPK5K! Since 2009, the TKPK5K has been held on the first Sunday in May (with the exception of 2020). This year you can run any route at any time from May 1 to May 31.

Every precaution will be in place to ensure the safety of our community. Serious racers, first-time 5Kers, runners of all ages and abilities and friends and family from all over the world can run with us! Visit the TKPK5K page on the City website for more information. This is going to be fun!



## Editor's note

### English:

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

### French:

Recherchez cette icône à côté des articles du bulletin que

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

### Spanish:

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

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

### Amharic:

ከታች ያለውን ደህን ኦዲ ይፈልጉ የዚህ መጻሕፍት አርባዎ ራስዎ ርዕዮ በሌሎች ቋንቋዎች በመስመር ላይ ማንበብ ይቻላል ትርጉሙን በመጠቀም በታችኛው ከተማ ውስጥ ያለውን በህገ ሃገር ድር ጣቢያ ጠቀስኋል ለሌሎች አገልግሎት ለላይኛው ቀኝ ጥግ ላይ ታንባለች የአሰላስሎን ይምረጡና ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልቋይ ሳያሆን፡፡



## RECREATION

■ From page 9

Free

55+

### Vital Living 55+ in Takoma Park

A new cable show series designed for Takoma Park residents 55+ highlighting important topics including interviews, presentations, and performances. Vital Living is available Tuesdays 6:30 a.m.; Wednesdays 8 a.m.; Thursdays 8:30 p.m., and Fridays 7 p.m. on Comcast & RCN: Channel 13/ Verizon Fios: Channel 28. This schedule is subject to change because of the council or other live productions.

Vital Living 55+ is also available on YouTube. Archived Programs: Show #1: Social Isolation and keeping residents connected. Show #2: Staying Active and Healthy during the pandemic. Program on air now: Show #3: Arts & Humanities in Takoma Park

See informative interviews with Brendan Smith, coordinator, Takoma Park Arts & Humanities and Cynthia Scott, vice president of Uniting U.S., a nonprofit arts program for veterans utilizing “art making” for healing and wellness. The show concludes with a lovely montage of dance, music, and poetry performances. For more information, please contact Paula Lisowski at 240-687-4132 or paulal@takomaparkmd.gov.

## ART



### Beginners Drawing

With materials you can find around the house, this free Zoom class explores how to draw with perspective, lights and darks, and different pen or pencil techniques. Enjoy the supportive and positive atmosphere to learn at your own speed. Instructor:

Alice Sims  
55 and older  
Wednesdays, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.  
April 21-May 12  
Free

## FITNESS

### Classic Foundational Fitness and Training

The program is designed to enhance strength; decrease fall risks; increase physical fitness level; improve cardiovascular capacity and range of motion; and enhance general sense of well-being. Class utilizes a high back chair, light hand weights and/or a resistance tube. Equipment is not provided.

Have a towel and water bottle nearby. Instructor:

Michael Williams  
55 and older  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10–11 a.m.  
Starts April 6  
Free



### Enhance Your Fitness

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

55 and older  
Tuesdays, 8:45–9:45 a.m.  
Starts April 6  
Free

### Line Dance

Line Dancing is great physical and mental exercise. Its benefits include 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.  
Starts April 7  
Free

### Yoga for Healthy Aging

This class helps build strength, endurance, flexibility, and range-of-motion and improve posture and balance, and aids in preventing/reversing bone loss related to osteoporosis using seated, standing, and floor poses and breathing and relaxation techniques. Students need to provide their own yoga sticky 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.  
Starts April 7  
Free

### “Zumba” Gold

Active older adults who are looking for a modified Zumba class that recreates the original moves you love at a lower intensity. The design of the class introduces easy-to-follow Zumba choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination.

Instructor: Yesika Flores  
55 and older  
Fridays, 10–11 a.m.  
Starts April 9  
Free

## LIBRARY

■ From page 7

to You” home delivery, “Crafts to Go” craft bag giveaways, and programs on Zoom and outdoors – library staffers continued to do all of the behind-the-scenes work we’ve always done to keep our collection fresh and up to date. When the building was open, patrons generally only saw us as we worked at the circulation desk or in the Children’s Room. Most of our work, however, has always been done out of public view in the staff area.

These “back room” tasks include collection development (choosing and ordering new books for our shelves); cataloging; book mending; and shelving (and self-reading, a tedious but important task to ensure books are in the proper order). All these tasks take time, and all are vital to making sure our library collection is the best it can be for our patrons.

We’re also doing some careful “weeding” of our collection as we prepare to

move to temporary quarters while our new building is constructed. Our patrons have made it clear that they want us to keep a large collection of physical books, and they want us to keep the kind of collection we have, which is both deep and wide. We are taking our time and carefully assessing any books that may be candidates for weeding while still being mindful of our limited space and constant need to add to the collection to keep it up to date.

We’ve made it through this year. Things are different – no doubt about that. Although our staffers who handle “Books to Go” and “Books to You” do interact with Library patrons, it is not quite the same as before, and it’s not just because we’re all wearing masks. To be honest, we library staffers keenly miss having those wonderful book-related conversations with our patrons at the circulation desk, and we can’t wait until we can fully re-open!

## What’s That Buzz?

By Meg Smolinski

They’re coming again, the periodic cicadas! This spring, Brood X of the periodical cicadas will emerge from the ground and cover our trees, lawns, and plants again. These cicadas, which are different from the annual cicadas we see every year, have developed a survival tactic called “predator satiation” which means that basically, there are so many of them emerging at once that any predators will be overwhelmed with the numbers and the species will survive.

Brood X will emerge from mid-May to June and are distinct from the annual cicadas by their red eyes and orange wing veins. You’ll start to see mud tunnels or mounds in the ground, especially under trees, which are the escape hatches of the insects. They’ll emerge, climb the tree to molt, feed, mate, and then the females will deposit their eggs in the young branches of the trees. So what does this mean for tree health in our area?

First of all, while the sheer number of periodical cicadas can make your skin crawl, they aren’t interested in humans, so other than clumsily flying into you by accident, they aren’t really going to harm you in any way. Older, established trees also don’t necessarily need to worry about significant damage or injury, as the females are really looking for the young, pliant branches of a tree to lay her eggs. What happens is she uses her ovipositor to scratch a line in the tender bark of a branch about the thickness of a pencil and deposit her eggs inside. An established tree that is in good health can compensate for this damage overall. Young trees both will attract more females because there are more places to deposit eggs, and also may not have the established stamina to compensate for the damage.

There are some steps you can do to help your trees along this year:

- One is to wait to plant any new trees or shrubs until the fall. Generally the best times of year to plant are the spring and fall, so if you can wait until after this spring, when the cicadas are really active, you’ll set the new tree up for success.
- Another is to make sure that any young trees you have planted aren’t stressed by watering them, putting a ring of mulch around the roots, making sure the root flare (the area of the trunk just above the soil line) is clear of mulch and vines, and keeping an eye on the tree. This will help the tree not only recover from cicada damage, but is also just a good idea for tree health in the long run.
- Lastly, if you do have a tree that has significant value to you, you can wrap them with a net, which is one of the most effective ways to prevent the damage by blocking cicada access to the tree. Studies have shown that a net size of 1.0 cm is the optimum size with larger meshes not being able to block cicadas and smaller meshes not allowing air movement and smaller insects in and out. Netting has been shown to be more effective than pesticides labeled for cicada use as well.

If you do have damaged branches, carefully pruning them out will also help the tree recover faster and better as well.

We can’t prevent the cicadas from emerging and completing their lifecycle, nor would we want to, but hopefully, with these tips we won’t lose any trees in our area, and it will just be another event to add to the list of these strange times we live in.

Meg Smolinski is the founder of Maryland Sustainable Ecologies, an arborist education firm located in Takoma Park, MD. For more information, visit [marylandsustainableecologies.weebly.com](http://marylandsustainableecologies.weebly.com).



## Thinking about Solar?

Have you been thinking about solar for your home? Don't know where to start? Questions about financial incentives? You don't have to do this alone!

### The Capital Area Solar Co-op can help!

Solar co-ops make installing a solar system easy. Solar co-ops bring neighbors together, answer questions, and use bulk-purchasing power to get discounted pricing and quality installation. Each homeowner gets a personalized proposal.



Solar United Neighbors is forming a new co-op now! For more info and a schedule of virtual info sessions: [www.solarunitedneighbors.org/co-ops/maryland/](http://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/co-ops/maryland/)

For more information contact  
Gina Mathias at [GinaM@TakomaParkMD.gov](mailto:GinaM@TakomaParkMD.gov)



# April 2021 Calendar

We have been using this space to feature city resources and provide important updates on city services. We will continue to do, and we will provide updates as more in-person events become feasible. In the meantime, let us know if you have a virtual, or in-person, non-profit event that would be of interest to City of Takoma Park residents, and we will consider it for inclusion in the calendar.

Deadline for the May issue is April 16, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning April 30.

To submit virtual calendar items, email [tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov).

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

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

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

## SHARE IDEAS

### Attend virtual City Council meetings!

**Wednesday, April 14, 7:30 p.m.**

City Council Regular Meeting

**Wednesday, April 28, 7:30 p.m.**

City Council Regular Meeting

**Monday, April 19, 7:30 p.m.**

City Council Budget Work Session

**Monday, May 3, 7:30 p.m.**

City Council Budget Work Session

**Wednesday, April 21, 6 p.m.**

City Council Administrative Function Session (City Manager Search)

*Administrative Function Sessions are closed to the public.*

**Wednesday, May 5, 7:30 p.m.**

City Council Regular meeting

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

**Monday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.**

City Council Budget Work Session

## PUBLIC HEARINGS IN APRIL

The City Manager presented her proposed budget to the City Council on Wednesday, April 7.

Budget-related public hearings will take place on April 14 and April 28.

On April 12, there will be an overview of the Takoma Junction Redevelopment Project plan. A public hearing on the project will take place on April 28.

Wednesday, April 14, 7:30 p.m.

- Public Hearing on the Proposed FY 2022 Budget

Wednesday, April 28, 7:30 p.m.

- Public Hearing on the FY 2022 Tax rate (Constant Yield Tax Rate)
- Public Hearing on the FY 2022 Budget
- Public Hearing on the Takoma Junction Redevelopment Project

## STAY ACTIVE

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

### Sunlight Qi Gong

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

### Yoga for Healthy Aging

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

### Fitness for Life

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

### Zoomba Gold/Zumba Gold

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

### Recess Break

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

### Youth Dance

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

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### All Things Trees: Spring 2021 E-Workshop Series

**Saturdays, April 17, & 24, 12:30 – 1 p.m.**

The City of Takoma Park will be offering a round of e-workshops for Takoma Park residents this spring to serve as an opportunity for them to learn about all things trees. Workshop content has been developed by Maryland Sustainable Ecologies and will be presented by ISA Board Certified Master Arborist Richard Jones on Saturdays at 12:30 p.m. Sessions will be conducted via Zoom and will last for 30 minutes with a question and answer period. Workshops will be limited to 25 participants, and signups will be accepted on a rolling basis until the slots are filled. To sign up, send an email to [urbanforestmanager@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:urbanforestmanager@takomaparkmd.gov) with your name, Takoma Park address, and which workshop you would like to attend. See p. 4 for more information.

### Parkinson's and Movement Disorder Support Group

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

### Takoma Park's 2021 4th of July Celebration

It may be different this year, but if there is a way to do so safely, we hope to celebrate the 132nd anniversary of the Takoma Park Independence Day Celebration with you all on July 4, 2021. To stay up to date on any decisions made about Independence Day 2021, please consider joining the committee or visit [www.takomapark4th.org](http://www.takomapark4th.org). Thank you for your support and please stay safe.

## VILLAGE OF TAKOMA PARK EVENT

### Aging Well: Shared Housing

Tuesday, April 20, 2–3

Do you have an extra room, or accessory dwelling, in your home that you are thinking of renting? Or perhaps you are someone seeking safe, healthy, and affordable housing (minimum term of six-months). Join this session to learn about the Montgomery County Shared Housing Program, an innovative initiative that facilitates screening and matching those individuals. The program is supported by Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services and offers free access

to the Silvernest online platform, which provides background checks, lease creators, automated rent payments, and homesharing insurance. We'll learn about this collaborative effort from Michelle Higgs, community outreach coordinator, and Carmen Castro-Conroy, director of housing counseling, of the Housing Initiative Partnership, which manages the program. This session is open to all; registration required. Please go to [villageoftakomapark.com](http://villageoftakomapark.com) for more information, and to register to receive the Zoom link.

