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

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

Information and Resources: Covid19

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

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TAKOMAPARK

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Volume 60, No. 4

ECRSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

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Mayor & Council
Takoma Park, MD

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UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Wednesday, April 14, 7:30 p.m., City Council Regular Meeting (Takoma Junction Redevelopment Project Overview and Small Group Discussions)
- Wednesday, April 21, 6 p.m., City Council Budget Work Session
- Wednesday, April 28, 7:30 p.m., City Council Regular Meeting
- Wednesday, April 28, 7:30 p.m., City Council Regular Meeting
- Thursday, April 22, 7 p.m., City Council Regular Meeting

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.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 22, 7 p.m.

FAÇADE 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.

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.

Public Hearing on the Proposed FY 2022 Budget

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

- Public Hearing on the Proposed FY 2022 Budget
- Public Hearing on the FY 2022 Tax rate (Constant Yield Tax Rate)
- Public Hearing on the FY 2022 Budget

City Manager’s FY 2022 Budget Update

The City Manager presented her annual budget to the Council on April 7. Budget-related public hearings will be held on April 14 and April 28.

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 City TV (RCN - Channel 13, HD Channel 1060 Comcast/xfinity - Channel 13 Verizon Fios - Channel 28)
- on Facebook (@TakomaParkMD/)
- on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/user/TakomaParkTV)

The public can comment live during the public comment portions of the meetings by registering and logging into the video conference. Anyone wishing to share a slide or video must make the request at least 24 hours before the meeting by contacting Mayor Kate Stewart. The meeting link will be provided by weekly email from the City Clerk and on the City website. For those not able to comment at the meeting, written comments may be sent by email to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov to be circulated to the City Council.

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

At the Council meeting on February 24, 2021, the Council adopted Resolution 2021-4 appointing members to the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force as follows: Ajmel Qureshi (Ward 3), Christina Morado (Ward 4), Lauren Van Tol (Ward 1), Emil Parker (Ward 5), Sawan Kamara (Ward 5), Jumana Musa (Ward 6), Kinimori Nakamura (Ward 6), Sadie Arlene Cheston Harris (Ward 3), Olaide Atoyebi (Ward 6), Duane Scott (Ward 6), Xitfalls Velasquez (Ward 3), Leon Crowell (Ward 3), 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 2021-4 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 $13,000.

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.

Michael Rubin (Ward 2), Adam Braskich (Ward 1), Sadie Arlene Cheston Harris (Ward 6), Duane Scott (Ward 3), Cedric Boatman (formerly of Ward 4), Michael Rubin (Ward 2), Adam Braskich (Ward 6). (Councilmember Smith voted no.)
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 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.

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

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

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…
bud shadows on the magnolia
towpath hike:

That perches in the soul –
And sings the tune without the words –
And never stops – as all –
And sweetest – in the Gale – is heard –
And sure 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 another spring together

To find other “Poems of Hope and Resilience,” visit 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 for more information.
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 urbanforestrym@takomaparkmd.gov with your name, Takoma Park address, and which workshop you would like to attend.

The Urban Forest Manager will 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.

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.

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:
• 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/3AVDiGl). 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 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 lesscondescending to everyone else, but there are many wonderful exceptions.

Q: Why do you like vintage films? How have films evolved over the past century?
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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 Con founding Father: A Contrarian View of the U.S. Constitution. It’s available to rent or buy on Vimeo (vimeo.com/ondemand/confound ing). 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 Con founding 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: 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 worked for C-SPAN’s American History TV since 2010. I create and produce a weekly series called Real 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: 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 Real 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.

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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.

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BUDGET

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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 52.93 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 Garden 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. Please include your name, phone number, and email address.

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

Reflections on an Uncommon Year

By Karen MacPherson

Our building may be closed, but the library is very much open! That’s how the daily mantra of the Takoma Park Maryland Library, which offers e-books and audiobooks for kids and adults, music, movies, and TV shows, continues to work hard for our patrons through our visible public programs.

staffers could do their work in the library building instead of remotely; the numbers of staff working in the building at one time have been reduced 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 distributed 630 “Crafts to Go” to happy young patrons. The “Crafts to Go” give-away 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 closure, Dave was up and running with Zoom versions of two kids’ programs, Comics Jam and Scribblers Cabal, which continue. With help from Dave, I restarted our popular Circle Time program on Zoom last April, and Senora

Calendkj

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/tpliblibraryevents; we’ll send an email with the next date to all registered.

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: 73725

Zoom Scribblers 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 free 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/tpliblibraryevents.

Zoom Circle Time: Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Meeting ID is 995-4901-8285 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/tpliblibraryevents; we’ll send an email with the next date to all registered.

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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, 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

Craft bag materials

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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

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 dozens of short Storytime Videos and 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, Chiru Achebe, Dead Men’s Path

• May 5: Zora Neale Hurston, Sweat; Ralph Ellison, A Party Down at the Square

• May 12: Kafei Fong: Blues

• May 19: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Half of a Yellow Sun; Ralph Ellison, Invisible Man; Ralph Ellison, A Party Down at the Square

• June 2: Ralph Ellison, A Party Down at the Square

For more information on joining the Big Book Club, go to tpml.org/upcoming-events.

—Phil Schewe

April 2021

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Katie Knows Storytime videos

Outdoor Yoga Storytime

Library programs

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

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

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**VIRTUAL CLASSES**

**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 are 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

**EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT**

**TEENS**

**ART**

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

**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, 12–12:30 p.m.

Starts April 3

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

Foundational Fitness & Training II

Grades 6–12

Mondays, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

April 8-May 27

Free

**RECREATION**

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

For a full list of classes, see the Spring/Summer City Guide inside this issue!
**VITAL CLASSES**

- **Sun Light Qi Gong**
  - Instructor: Tehseen Chettri
  - Equipment: Yoga mat, 2 blocks, 2 blankets, and 1 belt.
  - Description: Sun Light 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 flowers bloom 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 necessary.
  - Start: April 7
  - Days: Wednesdays
  - Time: 7–8:30 p.m.
  - Fee: Free

- **Total Body Blast**
  - Instructor: Patrick Smith
  - Description: This class provides a mix of calistenics, 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.
  - Start: April 7
  - Days: Wednesdays
  - Time: 7–8:30 p.m.
  - Fee: Free

- **Yoga (beginner)**
  - Instructor: Telesheen Chettini
  - Description: 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, 1 block, 1 belt.
  - Start: April 7
  - Days: Wednesdays
  - Time: 5:30–6:30 p.m.
  - Fee: Free

- **Rise and Move**
  - Instructor: Patrick Smith
  - Description: 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).
  - Start: April 7
  - Days: Wednesdays
  - Time: 10–11 a.m.
  - Fee: Free

- **Get Out and Play!**
  - Instructor: Vivian Mwano
  - Description: This virtual class will take you on a journey of self-discovery, providing you with tools and techniques to empower your body and mind. You will learn how to connect with your inner self and find your own unique path to wellness.
  - Start: April 7
  - Days: Wednesdays
  - Time: 10–11 a.m.
  - Fee: Free

**MARTIAL ARTS**

- **Karate Self Defense**
  - Instructor: Patrick Smith
  - Description: This class teaches traditional Okinawan karate style (Tatsunogen), which focuses on self-defense, leadership, and cultural exchange through the practice of a traditional Okinawan martial art. You will learn the key principles of karate, including focus, balance, and control.
  - Start: April 7
  - Days: Tuesdays
  - Time: 7–8:30 p.m.
  - Fee: Free

**MULTIMEDIA**

- **Digital Marketing**
  - Instructor: Nicole Porsch
  - Description: This class teaches the key digital marketing skills that can help you monetize your expertise. You will learn how to navigate the digital world to build a product or your services. This virtual class will cover ideas for activation and market research; how platforms are used for your business; effective social media ads and how to set them up; how to build a website layout that converts into sales; live workshops with digital marketing gurus.
  - Start: April 7
  - Days: Mondays
  - Time: 6:30–7:30 p.m.
  - Fee: $25

**EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT**

- **Voice Overs…Now is your time!**
  - Instructor: Judith Barrington
  - Description: This virtual class will help you pursue voice-overs part-time or full-time, this course will show you how you can begin using your speaking voice for commercials, films, videos, and more. You will learn the fundamentals of voice-overs and how to build a successful career in this exciting field.
  - Start: April 7
  - Days: Mondays
  - Time: 6:30–7:30 p.m.
  - Fee: $25

**RECREATION**

- **Let’s Move Caribbean Dance**
  - Instructor: Beth Mwano
  - Description: Let’s Move Caribbean Dance is a dance class that combines traditional Afro-Caribbean rhythms and movements, teaching you how to express yourself and engage your body in a fun and energetic way.
  - Start: April 7
  - Days: Wednesdays
  - Time: 7–8 p.m.
  - Fee: Free

- **ReVamp Fit Home Workout**
  - Instructor: Tehseen Chettini
  - Description: ReVamp Fit Home Workout is a comprehensive fitness program that focuses on total body endurance, strength, and flexibility. Move your body to build cardio endurance and strength training, and cardiovascular exercise in one dynamic session. Participants will work at their own pace to complete the workout.
  - Start: April 7
  - Days: Wednesdays
  - Time: 5:30–6:30 p.m.
  - Fee: Free

- **Sun Light Qi Gong**
  - Instructor: Tehseen Chettini
  - Description: Sun Light 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 flowers bloom 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 necessary.
  - Start: April 7
  - Days: Wednesdays
  - Time: 7–8:30 p.m.
  - Fee: Free
“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 at 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.

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 improve 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!

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 pandemic, 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.foodjusticemv.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’ 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://tpemsta.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.

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For more information, please visit the website.

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 supérior 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.

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 pandemic, 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.

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For more information, please visit the website.
Have 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!

**Thinking about Solar?**

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/

For more information contact
Gina Mathias at GinaM@TakomaParkMD.gov

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**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, plant 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 do 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.
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.

SHARE IDEAS
Attend virtual City Council meetings!
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)
Monday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Budget Work Session

To submit virtual calendar items, email ttpnewseditor@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.

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.

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

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

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

Zumba Gold/Zumba Gold+ 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.

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

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 urbanforestromanager@takomaparkmd.gov with your name, Takoma Park address, and which workshop you would like to attend. See p. 4 for more information.

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
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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 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. 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 for more information, and to register to receive the Zoom link.