

February
2021

TAKOMA PARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 60, No. 2 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

WHAT'S NEW?

Black History Program Honoring Lee Jordan

Details, page 4

Changes to Stormwater Utility Fee Rate Being Considered

Details, page 9

COVID Vaccine Q & A

page 10

City Offices & Facilities Closed

Sunday, Feb. 14 - Monday, Feb. 15
President's Day holiday

Trash/Recycling Collection

Yard waste collection canceled
Monday, Feb. 15



Look for this icon
throughout this
issue

See page 10

New businesses rise during pandemic

By Sean Gossard

While the pandemic continues across the country, more and more businesses struggle to survive in the new normal. But all news isn't so bleak. Several new businesses have been able to open all around Takoma Park. From restaurants to hair studios, entrepreneurs have been working hard to provide jobs and services to residents in the city.

In May, Trattoria da Lina owner Marcello "Mitch" Minna opened Carpe Diem Pizza at 7000 Carroll Ave. "You give your word and tell people you'll do certain things," said



Hair studio Sugar Braids has implemented precautions to keep both customers and employees safe.

NEW BUSINESSES □ Page 3



Credit: autoevolution.com

Curbside electric vehicle charging permits now available

Residents thinking about buying an electric vehicle but who don't have a garage, driveway, or parking pad where they can install a charger now have a solution. Takoma Park is offering residents a new

permit option for curbside electric vehicle chargers. The new permit is available to residents who do not have any off-street

CHARGING PERMITS □ Page 3

Information and Resources: Covid19
takomaparkmd.gov

Questions, Comments and Suggestions
askus@takomaparkmd.gov



#TogetherTKPK



New and improved Approved Tree Species List released

The Public Works Department is excited to announce the completion of a new and improved Approved Tree Species List to guide tree planting efforts in the City. The list's main function is to specify which trees the City has approved for planting and for replacement plantings required for residents to receive Tree Removal Permits. Our hope is that this list can also serve as a resource for all residents interested in planting trees.

The list documents a broad selection of tree species native to Maryland as well as some found more broadly in the Eastern United States that are well-suited for planting in Takoma Park. With this list, we hope that residents will be come more aware of native species options suited for a variety of planting sites and design goals. If your site is wet or dry, shady, or sunny, and your design goals are to provide shade, privacy, flowers, food, or wildlife benefits, then the list should have a tree for you.

While the list provides several helpful traits about each tree species, for the sake of brevity, it does not attempt to cover every detail. Some additional traits you may want to consider may include the tree's expected lifespan, its growth rate, its rooting habit, and what specific services it may provide to native wildlife. Additionally, it is important that species selection occur along with a holistic approach to designing your landscape. How will the quality of the soil be improved or maintained? What potential future landscape or construction work might impact the roots of the tree? What activities near the tree might lead to increased soil compaction? It can be valuable to work with local extension agents, landscape designers, and arborists to appropriately plan for trees in your landscape.

With increasing urbanization and development, natural forest communities are experiencing elevated pres-

TREE SPECIES □ Page 3

Inside



The Transformation of
B.Y. Morrison Park
Page 5



Mindfulness
for Teens
Page 7



New Bubble Bar
on Carroll Ave.
Page 11

ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

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

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

DOCKET

City Council & Committee Calendar

REMOTE/VIRTUAL MEETINGS CONTINUE

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

COMMENTING AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

- Wednesday, February 3, 7:30 p.m., City Council Regular Meeting
- Wednesday, February 10, 6 p.m., City Council to hear presentation on Biblioteka Remote Library Locker System
- Wednesday, February 10, 7:30 p.m., City Council Regular Meeting
- Wednesday, February 17, 7:30 p.m., City Council Regular Meeting
- Wednesday, February 24, 7:30 p.m., City Council Regular Meeting
- Wednesday, March 3, 7:30 p.m., City Council Regular Meeting

CITY BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, February 11, 7 p.m.

COMPLETE SAFE STREETS COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 11, 7 p.m.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 25, 7 p.m.

FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

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

GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

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

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

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

PARKING MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

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

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

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

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, February 22, 7 p.m.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 18, 7 p.m.

TREE COMMISSION MEETING

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

YOUTH COUNCIL

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

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

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

ADA NOTICE

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone with a disability who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations at a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing is invited to contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at jessie@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267 at least 48 hours in advance.

CityCouncilAction

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Wednesday, February 24, 7:30 p.m.

The City Council will hold public hearings on Wednesday, February 24, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

1. Public Hearing to take comments on a series of traffic calming requests.
2. Public Hearing on the proposed new Stormwater Management Fee System.

Residents are encouraged to sign up to comment at the public hearings.
(The link to sign up will be found on the Council agenda page of the website.)

VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

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

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

Important City Department Phone Numbers

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



NEW BUSINESSES

■ From page 1

Minna. “Since I opened the pizzeria, I’ve been able to give people jobs.”

However, things haven’t been easy since opening with the loss of revenue from alcohol sales hitting especially hard. The restaurant industry usually faces especially tight profit margins. “We lost almost all the alcohol sales, so going from \$25,000 a month in alcohol sales to about \$1,000 a month,” Minna said.

He did think about opening an outside dining area, but quickly realized it wasn’t a great business decision for him. “[To offer] outdoor dining the way it’s supposed to be, you have to invest a lot of money in it,” Minna said, “so the idea of investing money into something that I was hoping [would] go away wasn’t great.”

Carpe Diem offers authentic Neapolitan pizza and other Italian cuisine alongside an array of wines.

On Yelp! Hillary H. said of Carpe Diem: “Really, truly, honestly — this is as close as you’re going to get to authentic, Neapolitan pizza in the area. It’s so very, very legit.”

Minna still remains optimistic about things to come. “Rome was not built overnight, so right now we have a good start for reconstructing America better,” he said. To



Neapolitan pizza from Carpe Diem

order from Carpe Diem, visit tdl-cdp.square.site. (Read about another new addition to Takoma Park’s restaurant scene on page 11 of this issue.)

In September, Gaelle Laure Djeukam opened beauty

salon Sugar Braids (www.sugarbraid.com) at 1019 University Blvd. to cater to the black women with natural hair. Opening a hair studio during a pandemic may seem risky, but Djeukam has implemented several precautions to keep both customers and employees safe.

“We have the place divided into rooms, and no more than two people are in the room at once,” she explained. “We also wear masks while working, do temperature checks and try to keep the long braiding process as short as possible.”

On Google reviews, one customer said of Sugar Braids: “I 100% recommend this place especially during COVID where everywhere was tidy, masks were worn the whole time, and each time they left the room and came back, they washed their hands. I will definitely be coming back and recommend you to do your hair here!”

For now, the best thing the community can do is continue to support local businesses any way they can. “Our small businesses continue to struggle and need the community’s continued support,” said Laura Barclay, executive director of the Old Takoma Business Association. “Making purchases, taking online classes, ordering take-out, getting services done and purchasing gift cards will all help ensure that our businesses make it through this difficult time.”

CHARGING PERMITS

■ From page 1

parking options, such as a garage or driveway.

Chargers may be placed in front of the vehicle owner’s home where there is existing street parking and adequate space next to the curb (right-of-way) for the charger to be installed. The charger must tie into the home’s own electricity meter and is at the sole expense of the owner. To support the transition to a net-zero emissions community by 2035, there is no fee for this new permit. All permit holders are required to obtain a Montgomery County EV electrical permit, comply with the Takoma Park Tree Ordinance, and meet all installation guidelines provided by the City.

Transportation accounts for half of greenhouse gas emissions in Takoma Park. Of these emissions, personal vehicles contribute a large portion. Takoma Park City Council has prioritized reducing all greenhouse gas emissions and has adopted a goal of reaching net zero emissions by 2035. To achieve this goal, the City must do everything it can to facilitate the switch from internal combustion vehicles in its own fleet and city-wide, while simultaneously working at the state level to ensure the electricity that will be charging electric vehicles is 100% renewable.

Research has shown that while public infrastructure is necessary, home charging accounts for about 75 to 80 percent of EV owners charging (Source: www.mckinsey.com/industries/automotive-and-assembly/our-insights/charging-ahead-electric-vehicle-infrastructure-demand#). Simply put, without the ability to charge their car at home, most people will not choose an electric vehicle.

Home EV chargers are Level 1 or Level 2 chargers with a small size and can be mounted on a 4 x 4 wooden post or metal pole. The sustainability manager has developed installation guidelines for owners based on recommendations from other cities, Montgomery County, and advocacy organizations. Currently, there is no local regulation to prevent cars from blocking an on-street private EV charger. This may change. If you would like to share your opinion on how Takoma Park should or should not regulate parking for private on-street EV chargers, please email ginam@takomaparkmd.gov. There may be some situations where alternative placement is considered. The City has the right to refuse a permit if conditions cannot be met or for reasons not listed. Any refusal will be explained. Full details and the permit application can be found at takomaparkmd.gov/services/permits/curb-side-electric-vehicle-charging-permits.



2021 Tax Filing Season Begins February 12, 2021

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced that the nation’s tax season will begin on Friday, February 12, 2021. The tax agency will accept and process 2020 tax year returns on this date for individual tax return filers. The IRS is taking time to do additional programming and testing of systems following the December 27 tax law changes that resulted in a second round of stimulus payments and other benefits.

The IRS is encouraging taxpayers to file electronically with direct deposit. Tax filers can begin filing their taxes immediately although the returns will not be transmitted until February 12. If you need help with filing your taxes, the Community Action Agency’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is currently using a virtual tax preparation model.

Virtual VITA allows residents to use an online platform to securely upload their tax documents and have their ‘taxes prepared for free by a certified tax preparer. No in-person contact is required, allowing for the health and safety of staff and community members to be maintained.

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

Join us for a Community Conversation on our journey for the next City Manager

The Takoma Park City Council is interested in getting feedback from you, our residents, on our next City Manager’s search. It’s an opportunity to have a community discussion on what’s important and your opinion matters. We hope you will join us as we begin our journey in search of a new City Manager.

Virtual Meeting

Date: Thursday, February 4

Time: 6–8 p.m.

Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/3prvkYT>

TREE SPECIES

■ From page 1

sure. However, we can design and nurture a landscape that integrates the needs of a healthy and resilient urban forest with our built environment. To achieve this goal, it is essential that we plant trees to replenish and maintain the forest canopy. The forest is the ecological heritage of the landscape

of Takoma Park, and we honor that heritage by planting and nurturing trees. We hope that this species list can be one of the tools in the tool bag for fulfilling these goals.

Please see the Tree Permits page of the City of Takoma Park website to find the list, which is currently in draft form and is subject to updates based on comments we receive from the community.



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Apryl Motley

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www.takomaparkmd.gov

Vol. 60, No. 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Newsletter is printed on recycled— content paper.



BUILDING COMMUNITY

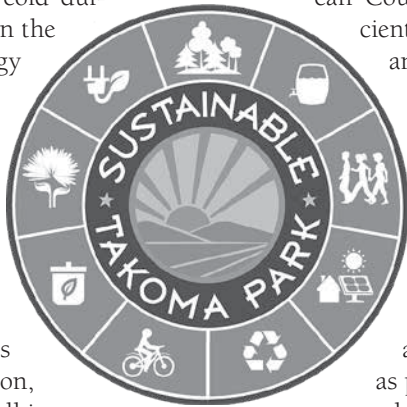


Improving indoor air quality and comfort while reducing utility bills

Does your home feel cold during the winter? Too hot in the summer? Do your energy bills seem abnormally high? No cost grants are available to help homeowners, who meet certain income requirements, make energy efficiency upgrades to their homes. Upgrades that the grants cover include insulation, draft reduction, caulking, weatherizing, and heating and cooling equipment as well as some major appliances. In past years grant recipients have reduced their monthly utility bills by \$65 or more. Rebates for the same types of improvements are available up to \$500 for residents who earn more than the grant threshold.

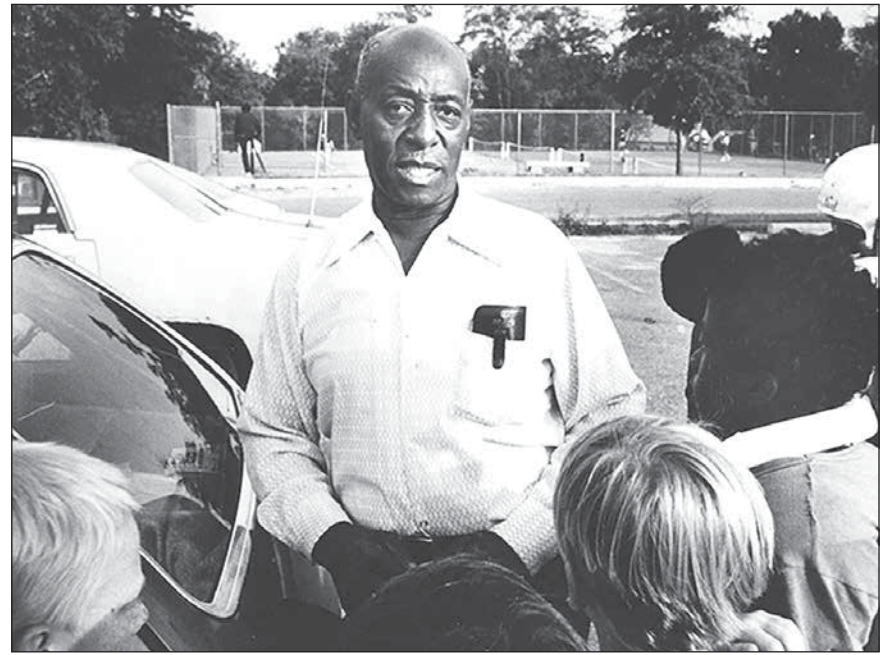
As so many people are stuck at home and suffering the many health and financial complications from COVID-19, energy efficiency and indoor air quality improvements are more important than ever. These types of home improvements can help improve indoor air quality by reducing dust, combustion gases, extreme drafts, and more, which can trigger asthma, allergies, and other conditions. Another way to reduce indoor air irritants is to remove combustion appliances from your home. When that is not possible, ensure there is proper ventilation being used.

According to Sara Hayes of the Ameri-



can Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, “Insulation and air sealing save energy, but they also protect people from heat waves and other harmful effects of climate change. Combining these services with strategies to identify and address a person’s asthma triggers — such as pest management and removal of indoor irritants — can reduce asthma symptoms and even prevent hospital visits...once we start thinking of energy programs as health programs, there is huge potential to save lives and improve quality of life.”

The City’s investment to provide rebates and grants to improve energy efficiency support the City’s goal to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035. About half of emissions in Takoma Park come from existing buildings, with a significant portion coming from homes. Helping residents improve their living conditions through energy efficiency is just one way the city is working to help. For a full list of resources available, visit takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/information-and-resources-covid-19. To apply for a sustainability grant, visit takomaparkmd.gov/sustainability.



Lee Jordan

Tune in for a Special Black History Month Program

Celebrate Lee Jordan Day 2021

Honoring the legacy of “Mr. Lee” Jordan, legendary Takoma Park community leader, coach, and mentor

“Preserving Stories from Takoma Park’s African American Community”

Highlights from a multiphase project documenting the community’s past through oral history interviews with longtime residents. Elders, who grew up during segregation and its aftermath, reflect on life and work, identity and values, and the forging of a vibrant community in the face of racial and economic challenges.

Celebrate Lee Jordan Day 2021

WOWD RADIO 94.3 FM

Tuesday, February 23

2:30–3:30 p.m.

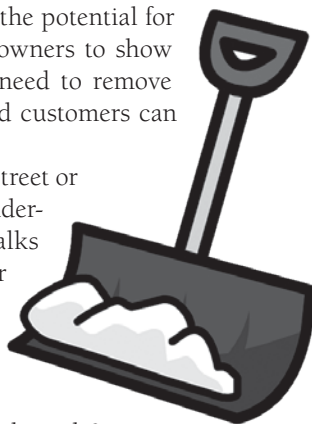
Let It Snow! (And Be a Good Neighbor!)

We just had some snow, and we may have more! With the potential for snow comes an opportunity for residents and business owners to show what good neighbors they can be. When it snows, we need to remove snow and ice from sidewalks, so neighbors, children, and customers can travel safely.

When sidewalks are not clear, people must walk in the street or try to navigate dangerous patches of ice, so please be considerate of neighbors and the community and keep your sidewalks clear. Would you be willing to help your neighbor? If your neighbors need some assistance clearing off their sidewalks, offer to give them a hand after you finish clearing yours.

The City has regulations regarding snow removal:

- Residents have until noon after a night of snowfall and until 9 p.m. after a day of snowfall to remove snow and ice from their sidewalks.
- Businesses will need to keep their sidewalks clear between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- The full width of your sidewalk must be clear unless full-width clearing is not feasible, in which case at a minimum a continuous three-foot wide path of the paved sidewalk must be cleared.
- Lastly, to protect our sidewalks and trees, the use of salt is strictly prohibited on sidewalks or within 10 feet of any trees.



—Code Enforcement Staff

Takoma Junction Vision Study Report Available

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) conducted a vision study to collaboratively develop a vision for improved pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular mobility at Takoma Junction, the intersection of MD 195 (Carroll Avenue) and MD 410 (Philadelphia Avenue/Carroll Avenue/Ethan Allen Avenue) in Takoma Park. MDOT SHA has completed the Takoma Junction Vision Study and invites you to visit our website <https://bit.ly/MDOTSHA-TJVS> to read the study report. The QR code to the website is provided. To request a copy of the study re-



port, contact Kandese Holford, Assistant Chief, Regional and Intermodal Planning Division, Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration at 410-545-5678 or kholford@mdot.maryland.gov.

Request for Assistance: The Maryland Relay Service can assist teletype users at 7-1-1. Persons requiring translation assistance with study materials should send an email to shatitlevi@mdot.maryland.gov. Please indicate the desired language in the subject line.

THE ARTS



A new chalkboard mural outlined by colorful flowers enlivens the park at the Takoma Junction at the corner of Carroll Avenue and Ethan Allan Avenue.

B.Y. Morrison Park Transformed into Kid-Friendly Space

Kids and kids at heart should visit B.Y. Morrison Park to play games, eat lunch, or share their creativity on a chalkboard mural.

The new public art project organized by the City of Takoma Park's Arts and Humanities Division has enlivened the aging park at the Takoma Junction at the corner of Carroll Avenue and Ethan Allan Avenue. The pavilion features a new chalkboard mural outlined by colorful flowers that artist Chris Pyrate painted. Chalk and erasers will be available at the park, or people can bring their own chalk.

Pyrate said his design was inspired by the need to get children outside for exercise and social interaction during the coronavirus pandemic. "It's been difficult for kids because many of them are stuck at home staring at computer screens all day for online learning," Pyrate said. "Play is important for children. I wanted the mural to be interactive, so kids could draw and write to express themselves, and they can meet other kids outside."

City of Takoma Park employees painted colorful stencils on the concrete floor of the park, including a giant hopscotch

robot, balloons to jump on, and animal tracks to follow. The picnic tables in the park also have been painted with colorful designs to encourage people to eat or relax there.

Pyrate was born in Washington, D.C., and has been a professional artist for a decade. He has created murals and other artwork in the D.C. area, Miami, New York City, and other locales. You can see more of his work at chrispyrate.com.

Public art is an important source of inspiration, creativity, and solace during difficult times, especially during this ongoing pandemic, Arts and Humanities Division Coordinator Brendan Smith said: "We all need to get outdoors and take a break during the day, especially kids. Anyone who wants to have some fun or just a place to relax should check out B.Y. Morrison Park. People should still wear masks

and practice social distancing as long as those restrictions are in place."



Above: Artist Chris Pyrate's design was inspired by the need to get children outside for exercise and social interaction during the pandemic.



At left: A younger resident enjoys the "balloons to jump on," which are among the color stencils City employees painted.

TAKOMA PARK ARTS ONLINE

Arts events in the *Takoma Park Arts* cultural series have moved online with new film screenings, concerts, poetry readings, and more. You can find more details and sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at takomaparkmd.gov/arts.

We Need Your Poems for Our Sidewalk Poetry Contest

Would you like to see your poem imprinted in a city sidewalk? Current Takoma Park residents of all ages may enter their short original poems in English or Spanish in this public art project. No poetry experience is needed so just write a poem and enter it! Winners will receive a \$100 award and a chance to have their poem immortalized in concrete. You can find more details in the online submission form at takomaparkmd.gov/sidewalkpoetry. The contest deadline is Feb. 28.

RECREATION

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

VIRTUAL CLASSES

TOTS

FITNESS

Creative Movement & Literacy with Carla

These 30-40-minute classes will include creative movement, dance, music, songs and books. Classes will be fun and will enhance body awareness, physical fitness, creativity, ability to follow directions, sequencing, number recognition and reading readiness. Children that are six will be asked to be leaders for the classes and demonstrate for the younger children. Instructor: Carla Perlo
4-6 years
Thursdays, 4:30-5 p.m.
Through February 18
Free

YOUTH

ART

Be Creative Arts & Crafts

Have fun being creative. Turn household recycled items into art and useful projects. Each week we will create a new project using paper, plastic bottles, cans, yarn, embroidery thread, magazines and more. Learn to braid, sew, embroider, make paper beads and more. Instructor: Carla Perlo
6-12 years
Saturdays, 12-12:30 p.m.
Through February 20
Free

DANCE

Youth Dance

We encourage you to join us as Ms. Charonne teaches a different dance technique weekly. Show off your skills in this free and fun class. Be sure to get to class a few minutes early. Clear the floor and get ready to move! Instructor: Charonne Butler
5-12 years
Sundays, 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
Through March 21
Free

FITNESS

Recess Break

It's Zoom Recess! Start your weekend right. Join Ms. Charonne every Saturday for stretching, fun and fitness! Spreading the word spreads more fun! Instructor: Charonne Butler
5-12 years
Saturdays, 10:30-11 a.m.
Through February 27
Free

TEEN

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Entrepreneurship for Teens 101

This virtual class engages teenagers, teaches them to follow their passions, and inspires teens to create their own businesses. George Washington University professor Ellen M. Zavian leads students to use their new entrepreneurial skills and work in teams to develop a venture idea that creates economic and social value. Registration via ActiveNet is required for this class. Once signed up, you will receive a link for access to the virtual class. Instructor: Ellen M. Zavian
11-14 years
6 Week Session
Wednesdays, February 24-March 31
4-5 p.m.
Free

Entrepreneurship for Teens 102

If you took the 101 class last season, join us for 102! This is the higher level class of Teen Entrepreneurship. This virtual class builds upon the introductory session and dives deeper into the tools needed to start your own business. George Washington University professor Ellen M. Zavian leads students to use their new entrepreneurial skills and work in teams to develop a venture idea that creates economic and social value. Registration via ActiveNet is required for this class. Once signed up, you will receive a link for access to the virtual

class. Instructor: Ellen M. Zavian
11-14 years
Wednesdays, 4-5 p.m.
Through February 17
Free



Meal Prep Mondays

Meal Prep Mondays is a fun and interactive hour course about basic cooking and kitchen skills as well as healthy recipes to make at home. Teens will be able to learn some nutritional components and how to create their own recipes as well as meal prep for the week. For more information, contact Leicia Monfort at leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov. This is a virtual class. Registration via ActiveNet is required for this class.
Grades 6-12
Mondays, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
February 1-March 29
Free

Teenage Money Management

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



Teen Talk Tuesdays

Join Ms. Leicia weekly. 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 on Zoom. For more information, contact Leicia Monfort at leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov. Registration required via ActiveNet.
Grades 6-12
Tuesdays, 4-5 p.m.
February 2-March 30
Free

FITNESS

Commit 2 B Fit

Get your yoga mats and water bottles and join us virtually for a fun and energized session to work out and get fit. This is a virtual class. Limited spaces available; registration via ActiveNet is required.

For more information, contact Leicia Monfort at leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov.
Grades 6-12
Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Through March 27
Free

ADULT

ART



Pandamit Painting

Enjoy instruction in how to paint with acrylics, including topics such as values, color mixing, complementary colors and mixed media. The purpose is also to support and assist each other in this time of restrictions and to provide a fun and informative activity. The students are responsible for their own materials; a list of suggested supplies will be given to students. Instructor: Alice Sims
16 and older
Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Through February 20
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. This is a virtual class. Instructor: Sergio Quisquainay
18 and older
Thursdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Through March 18
Free

Foundational Fitness & Training II (FFT II)

FFT II is a fitness program for participants who have been or are currently involved in a fitness regimen. The program builds on the concepts of Classic FFT, which incorporates various movements from numerous disciplines while utilizing minimal resistance and multiple repetitions. Advanced adds more resistance and incorporates floor or mat exercises using hand weights; bands/tubes; abdominal rollers and exercise balls. All equipment will need to be provided by the participants. FFT II will enhance, tone, and strengthen all major muscle groups; as well as increase stamina and flexibility. Instructor: Michael Williams
18 and older
Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Through March 27
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.
Through March 5
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. Mudras have 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 holistically understand the asanas for yourself and enhance your practice. This class is great for those 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.
Through March 3
Free



More Five Animal Qi Gong

Five Animal Play Qi Gong is one of the most ancient continuously practiced healing exercising systems in the world. Enjoy peaceful movements modeled on the crane, bear, monkey, deer and tiger. While this class is a continuation of our class from the fall, this is not a hindrance to joining. Participants will develop more strength, grace, flexibility, balance and healing in a relaxed group setting. You will feel the effects in your body, mind and spirit as you find harmony with nature and yourself. No experience necessary. Instructor: Patrick Smith
16 and older
Tuesdays, 7-7:30 p.m.
Through March 2
Free

ReVamp Fit Home Workout

This fitness class will incorporate 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.
Through March 3
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). This is a virtual class. Instructor: Sergio Quisquainay
18 and older
Mondays, 10-11 a.m.
Through March 22
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
Free

RECREATION

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

VIRTUAL CLASSES



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 & older
Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.
Through March 6
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 adults and seniors. No prior experience needed. Equipment: Yoga mat, 2 blocks, 2 blankets, 1 belt. Instructor: Tehseen Chettri 18 and older
Wednesdays, 5:30–6:30 p.m.
Through March 17
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. This is a virtual class. Instructor: Ellen Marcus 16 and older
Mondays, 6:30–7 p.m.
Through March 22
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; and live interviews with professionals working in a variety of fields on how they use the digital world to grow their businesses. Instructor: Vinny Mwano 16 and older
Thursdays, 6–7 p.m.
Through March 4
Free

Mobile Photography

Learn the secret formulas to capturing beautiful moments and memories for any occasion season on your phone. This course will cover manual mode; composition portraits; landscape; street photography; lighting; group photography; selfies and storytelling. Instructor: Vinny Mwano 13 and older
Tuesdays, 6–7 p.m.
Through March 2
Free

55+

Phone a Neighbor

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

FITNESS



Classic Foundational Fitness and Training

The program is designed to enhance strength, decrease fall risks, increase physical fitness level, improve cardiovascular capacity and range of motion, and enhance general sense of well-being. Class utilizes a high back chair, light hand weights and or a resistance tube. Equipment is not provided. Have a towel and water bottle nearby. Instructor: Michael Williams 55 and older
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10–11 a.m.
Through March 4
Free



Enhance Your Fitness

The class focuses on core strengthening through various body strength training exercises. Instructor: Adriene Buist 55 and older
Tuesdays, 8:45–9:45 a.m.
Through March 2
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.
Through March 3
Free

Line Dance

Line Dancing is great physical and mental exercise. Strengthening of bones and muscles, weight loss, increased stamina and flexibility, and stress reduction are just some of the benefits of dancing. Learn how exercise can be fun with music. No experience necessary. Instructor: Barbara Brown 55 and older
Wednesdays, 1–2 p.m.
Through March 3
Free



"Zumba" Gold

Designed for active older adults looking for a modified Zumba class that recreates the original moves you love at a lower intensity, this class introduces easy-to-

follow Zumba choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination. Instructor: Yesika Flores 55 and older
Fridays, 10–11 a.m.
Through March 5
Free

MULTIMEDIA



Poetry Workshop

Covid Creativity: Try your hand at poetry! Are you interested in tapping into your creativity during this pandemic and capturing your experiences in short poems? Takoma Park's Poet Laureate will lead an online Zoom poetry writing session. Have pen and paper handy and a sense of adventure. No previous poetry writing experience is necessary. After the workshop, you may decide to submit your poem to the Sidewalk Poetry Contest: Guide Our Feet: Haiku & Short Poetry. The City of Takoma Park will use selected poems on future sidewalk projects. Instructor: Kathleen O'Toole, Takoma Park Poet Laureate 55 and older
One Day Workshop
Tuesday, 2–3:15 p.m.
February 9
Free

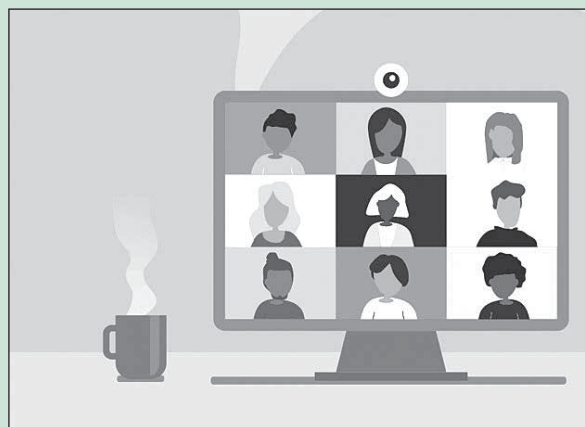
TPTalk55

Stay connected and catch up with friends, classmates, and neighbors in a live Zoom chat room. Grab a cup of coffee and join the friendly, social conversation. There is a call-in option available for seniors without internet access. To participate, contact Paula at 240-687-4132 or paulal@takomaparkmd.gov to request the meeting information. 55 and older
Mondays, 1–2 p.m.
February 8, 22
(No meet up 2/15)
Free

Breathe & Stop

When was the last time you listened to the sound of your own breathing? It's a great way to start your day before your feet even touch the ground, and the chaos begins. Stress is a repeating theme these past months. You often don't even notice the emotions you're holding until it creeps up on you. One day you're watching YouTube videos or bread making, and the next moment you're overwhelmed from the amount of baking time needed. Simple frustrations are often fueled by larger issues. For youth, expressing these feelings can be difficult and moving forward can feel impossible, especially when you have yet to develop the tools that come with experience.

Teen stress is an important health issue. When we discussed our winter classes, we took this as an opportunity to address this concern. The result was the creation of Mindfulness for Teens. This class is taught



by longtime Takoma Park Resident, Jen Langer-Smith. Mindfulness is paying attention in the present moment

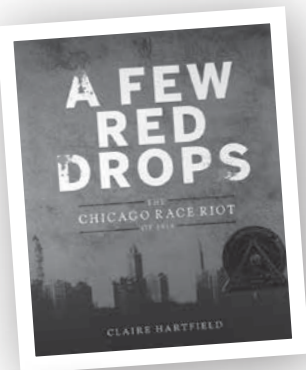
with kindness. Practicing it can help you be more calm and happy, gain mental focus for sports or performing, and learn to tame strong emotions. Every Wednesday at 4 p.m., teens can join and learn mindful listening, breathing, gratitude, and movement practices. Although this is a virtual class, Mrs. Jen works hard at giving an in-person experience: creating breakout rooms, using polling, and guiding meditative experiences.

The Mindfulness for Teens class promotes personal reflection. Pushing the participants to apply a personal connection to the challenges they face. This outlook inspires self-discovery, empowerment and happiness. Join us for this virtual class through February 24. This class is quickly filling up, so register today via Activenet!

LIBRARY

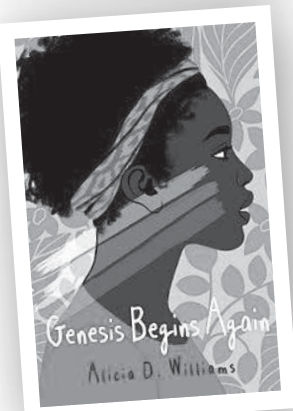
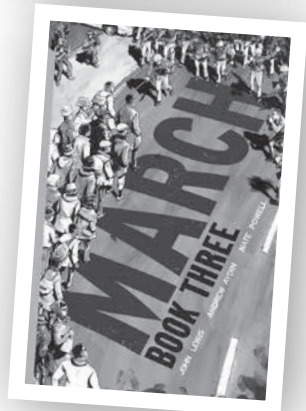


Black History Month Reading



February is Black History Month, so it's an especially terrific time to check out winners of the Coretta Scott King Book Award. This award is given annually to the books for kids and teens by African American authors and illustrators that best "demonstrate an appreciation of African American culture and universal human values."

The award is administered by the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT), which is part of the American Library Association. Established over 50 years ago, the award-winning books offer a broad spectrum of great writing and illustration for kids ages newborn through the teen years. To see a full list of all of the winners, go to: www.ala.org/rt/emiert/cskbookawards/coretta-scott-king-book-awards-all-recipients-1970-present.



Library Pilots "Computer Questions and Answers with Phil"

Do you have questions about something on your computer, smartphone, or tablet? Library staffer Phil Shapiro would love to try answering your questions via Zoom. You can sign up for 15 minutes of Phil's time – 2 to 5:30 p.m. weekdays. If your questions cannot be answered completely within this time

COMPUTER QUESTIONS □ Page 9



LIBRARY BRIEFS

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

Zoom Caldecott Club: Please join us on Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. The

LIBRARY BRIEFS □ Page 9

CALENDAR

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

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

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

Zoom Comics Jam: Once a month on a Wednesday at 4 p.m. The next date is February 10. To keep up with the schedule,

please register for Zoom Comics Jam at www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents; we'll send an email with the next date to all registered. The Meeting ID for Zoom Comics Jam is 734-913-6285. No Meeting Password needed.

Zoom Spanish Circle Time: Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. NOTE: **These are NEW Zoom credentials for Zoom Spanish Circle Time as of the beginning of 2021.** 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.

Zoom Caldecott Club

Tuesday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m.

We'll read and discuss the 2021 Caldecott Medal and Honor books.

Meeting ID: 951 9391 8459 Meeting PW: 183091

Fortnightly Book Club via Zoom

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

Our book is *The Turner House* by Angela Flournoy

=Books-to-Go



Updates

Here are some updates to our "Books-to-Go" program:

1. **Expanded Hours:** We recently greatly expanded the pick-up hours for our "Books-to-Go" curbside service program. Now, you can pick up your books from 2–8, Monday - Friday and 12–6 p.m. on Saturdays.

2. **Holds:** You may now place a hold on an item that is CHECKED OUT. Just go to our catalog: <https://takoma.bywatersolutions.com>.

- Log in and then type what you are searching for into the search box at the top.

- Click "Go." A list of matching items will come up – look through that list to find what you want.

- If it says CHECKED OUT (it says this in red capital letters), you can click the "Place Hold" button right there, or open up the actual catalog record for the book and look it over to be sure this is what you want. There is a hold button there too.

- **Note:** You cannot place a hold if there are copies available. Instead, send an email request for that book to librarytakomapark@gmail.com, and we'll let you know when it is ready for you to pick up.

- If you are having trouble logging in, please sign up at <http://www.tinyurl.com/tkpklibrarycards>, so we can help you.

3. **Book Delivery:** We are now offering a pilot "Books-to-You" program to provide limited book delivery – **for Takoma Park residents only** – who can't make it to the library to pick up their books. Delivery hours are 12–3 Mon-

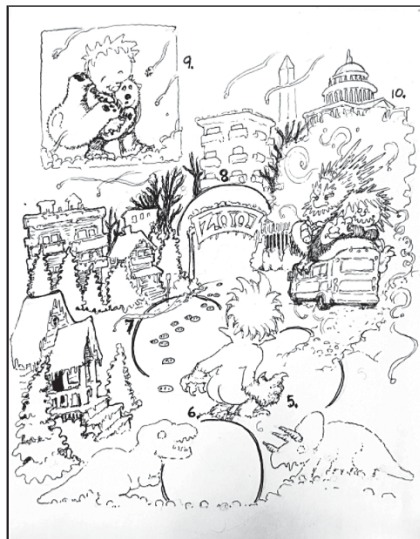
day - Thursday and 2–4 on Sunday.

- To request delivery, send an email with your book requests to librarytakomapark@gmail.com or call 240-507-0229 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 12–3. No delivery on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday. In the subject heading of the email (or when speaking to our staff by phone), please note that this is a delivery request.

- Then, in the content of the email please include the address and the phone number of the person who will be receiving the drop-off. Please note that we will not be able to leave books unattended on porches or in lobbies.

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

4. **Books Giveaway:** Look for a plastic bin full of books on a cart outside our "Books-to-Go" pick-up spot. Inside this bin are books that are looking for a new home! Please feel free to take one – or more – whether or not you're picking up Library books. We're calling this our "Books-to-Keep" program. Please don't return the books to us, as they are yours to keep.



WinterQuest Game Board

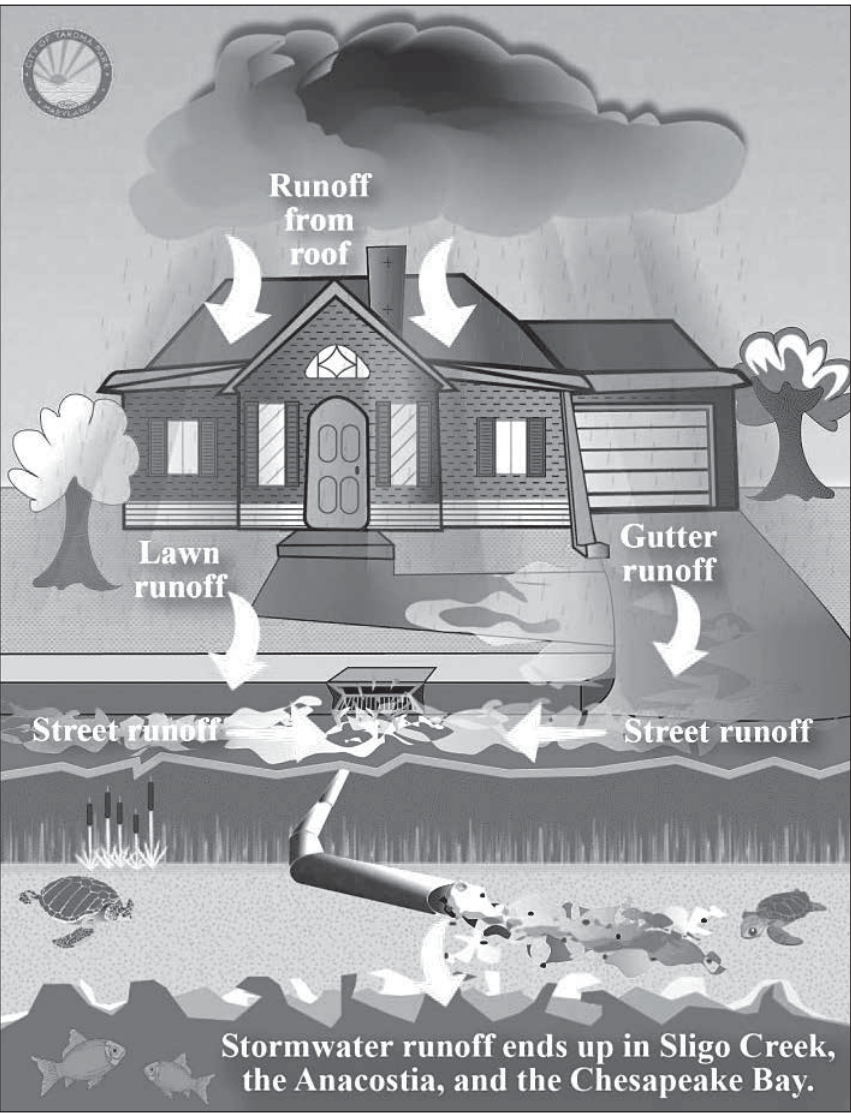
Council to Consider Change to Stormwater Utility Fee Rate for Single Family Properties

The City Council is considering changes to the stormwater utility fee. This fee, which has been in effect since 1996, is billed annually to every property in the city and the funds are used to manage and improve the City's public stormwater system. For many years, the City mailed the stormwater bill out to each property. For the past two years, the stormwater fee has been included as a separate item on the Montgomery County tax bill.

The stormwater system is a key piece of the City's commitment to improving the health of the Anacostia Watershed and the Chesapeake Bay and helps improve community resilience as we face the impacts of longer storms due to climate change. The stormwater utility fee was established to provide for a stable funding source for stormwater management and is charged to all properties with impervious surfaces – even those that are tax exempt. Impervious surfaces include the foot print of all buildings and structures, concrete, asphalt or gravel driveways, and hard surfaced walkways and paths. The rate charged to single family property owners has been a flat fee based on the average size of impervious area on those properties. The rate charged to commercial, institutional and industrial properties is based on the actual square footage of impervious area.

The stormwater utility fee generates \$700,000 annually for the City's stormwater programs. The annual revenue provides funding for system inspection and repairs, monitoring and water quality testing, repairs and maintenance of the existing system, design and construction of new facilities, and engineering oversight. Information about the program can be found at: takomaparkmd.gov/government/public-works/stormwater-management-program.

In 2018, the City hired Black & Veatch to complete an impervious area review of properties in the City and recommend fee options. The study, published in January 2019, can be found on the web page referenced above. Their analysis found that the average impervious area on



single family lots was larger and had a wider variation than originally assumed, with a range from 100 square feet to 10,500 square feet.

The consultants recommended the City consider changing the stormwater fee for single family properties from a flat fee to one that is tiered and based on the actual impervious area on the property. The amount of revenue

generated by the proposed new fee structure would produce the same amount of funding as the current flat fee rate. The current flat fee is \$92 per single family property; the proposed tiered system would be \$25 per 500 square feet of impervious area on the property. The charge per single family property would range from \$25 to \$525 annually, based on the amount of impervious area of the property.

The Council has previously discussed this information on September 11, 2019, February 5 and 19, 2020; and April 22, 2020. In the April meeting, the Council decided not to implement any residential property change for FY21 as the pandemic impacted available time for a thorough community notice. The information provided to the Council at these meetings can be found at takomaparkmd.gov/meeting_agendas.

The tiered fee structure provides a more equitable approach as those properties with larger impervious areas would be charged more than properties with smaller impervious area. Additionally, a tiered fee structure might provide an incentive to a property owner to reduce the amount of impervious area on their property which would reduce potential run-off as well as their fee.

To find out what the proposed fee would be for your single-family property, please refer to the color-coded map located at takomaparkmd.gov/government/public-works/stormwater-management-program/stormwater-fees-frequently-asked-questions-faq.

The City Council will be discussing the proposed change to the stormwater utility fee at its February 10 meeting. A public hearing is scheduled for February 24. If the Council approves of

the fee structure change, the new rates would become effective in the FY22 budget billing cycle.

If you have questions about the proposed fee or the City's stormwater management program, please contact the public works director at daryl@takomaparkmd.gov.

LIBRARY BRIEFS

■ From page 8

program will be led by Library Associate Dave Burbank, who will read and show the 2021 Caldecott Medal winner and the four 2021 Caldecott Honor books. All are welcome at this great family-friendly program! To join the fun, go to: <https://zoom.us>. Then put in: Meeting ID: 951 9391 8459 Meeting PW: 183091

Fortnightly Book Club via Zoom: The club will meet on March 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Our book is *The Turner House* by Angela Flournoy. The book describes "the fate of African Americans who have seen their hard-won success in reaching the middle class in a single generation blown to bits by continuing economic malaise. Viola and Frances Turner arrived in Detroit in 1944 as part of the Great Migration and bought a house in 1951, raising 13 children there. Now ailing, widowed Viola must leave the house, which she discovers is worth a tenth of its mortgage. All her children converge – as past, present and future collide." (From Library Journal)

tions are welcome. Please note, though, this is a library reference service and not a tech support service, so we can't fix or troubleshoot your computer issues via this service. Also, we can't help you get your printer working.

To reserve time with Phil, go to <https://tinyurl.com/qandwithphil>. Phil is also reachable via email at phils@takomaparkmd.gov.

COMPUTER QUESTIONS

■ From page 8

frame, Phil will strive to provide follow-up emails to make sure you get the best possible answers to your questions.

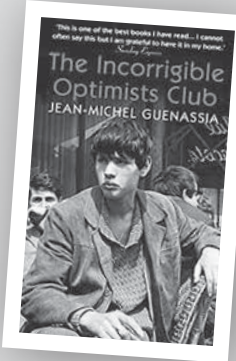
You can ask questions on a wide range of topics. Even advanced computer ques-

Book Review

Here's a book review by Emiliya, a local student who writes reviews for the library to earn Student Service Learning (SSL) hour credits. Other students who might be interested in reviewing for the library to earn SSL hours should contact Children's Librarian Kati Nolfi at kathryn@takomaparkmd.gov.

The Incorrigible Optimists Club by Jean-Michel Guenassia takes place in Paris during the 60s and focuses on a teenager named Michel who loves literature and playing table soccer in his favorite café but hates when his relatives from mum's and dad's side come together. His life would be regular if one day he would not secretly go to the section of the café dedicated to the chess players. There he meets people who eventually become his friends and advisers: refugees from Eastern Europe who had to leave their families and top rank occupations to survive.

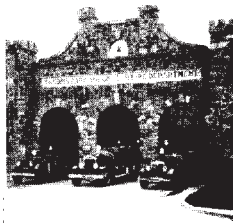
I loved how this simply written book



has several storylines with common topics (Michael's brother in Algerian war, his long-lasting friendship with brother's girlfriend who studies philosophy, enthralling stories of the chess club members) – how people can be a family without being related, and that it takes time to acquire an optimistic view on life. Also, watching Michael's literary taste developing is very engaging and leaves you with a whole new list of books to read.

Even though the book is pretty long, you can read it in one sit due to the quickly unfolding events and pleasant language. I think books like this one help young people to improve their knowledge of history and geography in an enthralling way. I would recommend it to everyone who would like to know more about France in 60's and likes to read about family relationships!

— Emiliya



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland Fire Marshal Office reported as of February 2, 2021, 4 people have died in fires compared to 3 in 2020.

Cold weather safety tips

Portable Space Heaters

- Purchase and use only portable space heaters that have automatic shut off (If they tip over, they shut off).
- Keep space heaters 3 feet from anything that can burn.

Fireplace

- Keep fireplace fires small.
- Never burn paper or trash in a fireplace.
- Always use a fireplace screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room and children and pets from in contact with the flames.
- Keep children away from fireplace screens to prevent contact burns.
- Allow ashes to cool completely before disposing of them.

- Store removed ashes in tightly covered metal containers, never in boxes or bags, away from the house.
- Before going to bed, make sure the fire is out and the flu is open.

Vehicle deaths

As of January 29, 2021, 24 children have died. Keep in mind, it doesn't matter the weather, hot or cold. It can happen if you don't check the back seat when you get out of your vehicle.

Firehouse Flashback

Have you ever wondered what was in the space between the U.S. Post Office and Pizza Movers on Laurel Avenue? Well, it's been 60 years since that space was occupied. At that time the Pizza Movers was Tony's Barber shop, and the post office was a Safeway store. Well, the space in between these two establishments was a large toy store, and before that it was a Woolworth store.

On February 11, 1960 at 12:44 a.m., a fire alarm came in for a fire at the toy store at 6903 Laurel Avenue. Firefighters from Takoma Park and surrounding area responded to the third-alarm fire. The last unit left the fire scene around noon. The entire building was destroyed. The Safeway and Barber shop were both saved. I was on the first Engine to arrive on the scene, along with the crew, driver Mikey McBride, Captain John Baker, firefighter Ted Jarboe, and Herbie Carpenter.

—James Jarboe

Window Guard Bill Introduced to Prevent Child Falls in Montgomery County

In response to the recent tragic falls of young children from apartment windows, Montgomery County Council President Tom Hucker introduced Bill 51-20 – Landlord Tenant Relations – Window Guards. This bill would require landlords to provide and install window guards in each window of habitable rooms above the ground floor of a dwelling in which a

child age 10 or younger lives, or if a tenant requests such guards. The guards would be supplied and installed at the landlord's expense. Public comments were presented to the County Council in January, and the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee (PHED) has a work session tentatively planned for March 1, 2021.



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:

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COVID-19 Vaccines Q & A: What You Need to Know

By Ron Hardy, Emergency Preparedness Manager/
Police Planning, City of Takoma Park



Everyone has questions about the vaccines that help prevent COVID-19. Be sure to do your own research now to prepare yourself for when your profession, age group, or target population gets notified or eligible for the vaccine. For a majority of us, it will be the Moderna vaccine, which will require two shots 28 days apart. Pfizer is being given to hospitals and long-term care facilities. Other vaccines are still in clinical trials. Below we address some frequently asked questions about the vaccines.

Q: How does the vaccine work?

A: The COVID-19 vaccines we will receive are mRNA vaccines. Unlike many vaccines that put a weakened or inactive germ in our bodies to trigger an immune response, mRNA vaccines teach our cells how to make protein or a piece of a protein that triggers an immune response. When the vaccine triggers that immune response, our bodies produce antibodies, which then protect us from getting infected if we are exposed to the real virus.

Q: How do I know it is safe?

A: The COVID-19 vaccines are being held to the same rigorous safety and effectiveness standards as all other types of vaccines in the United States. Because of the pandemic, testing and production of the vaccine have happened simultaneously, but none of the safety steps were skipped.

VACCINE Q&A □ Page 11

Common side effects that people may or may not get

- In the arm where you get the shot: pain, swelling and/or redness
 - Throughout your body: chills, tiredness, and/or headache
- These side effects usually start within a day or two of getting the vaccine. They might feel like flu symptoms and might even affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.

If you suffer severe allergic reactions or may be allergic to any of the ingredients of the vaccine, talk with your health care provider, or go to www.fda.gov and search Moderna vaccine.

A Note from the City Manager: Vaccinations and Sharing Good Information

The topic on so many of our minds is vaccinations. So many of us want to get a vaccination and the information that is out there on vaccinations is so very confusing. It's confusing for us, too!

Although the State of Maryland is putting out information on all who are eligible to receive vaccinations at this time, there is not enough vaccine availability for those who are eligible and the various vaccination sites each have their own criteria or process for registration. We keep trying to get good information to share and then the information changes right away!

Please be careful about where you register for vaccines. **Don't use links forwarded to you from others.** There are scams out there to steal your personal information. And, if you go to a vaccine site that someone else forwarded you information about, you will likely be turned away and not get the vaccine – sometimes after a long wait. Although some folks have registered at county sites outside of Montgomery County, some of those sites are now barring non-residents. Go to the Maryland Vaccine website (coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine) or the Montgomery County Vaccine website www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/vaccine for information and links. Obviously, this confusion is terrible for everyone and disproportionately hurts members of our community who are more vulnerable to COVID-19. I know the State and County governments want to be doing the right thing and are working hard to straighten things out.

In the meantime, please know we are trying to learn and help, and we are strenuously advocating for the residents of Takoma Park. We will share good information as we obtain and verify it.

—Suzanne Ludlow



Steve at Image360 Silver Spring installing signs



Main Street Pearl's bar and retail space, featuring a mural by Nancy of Magic Wand Murals



Leandra Nichola, a Takoma Park local for almost 15 years



Main Street Pearl's main feature: its bubbly drinks bar; featuring bubble tea, scratch sodas, kombucha, beer, cider, and sparkling wine



A Pearl of a Place: Takoma Park's New Bubbly Bar, Noshery, and Tuck Shop

By Rick Henry

For Leandra Nichola, an idea that has been brewing since childhood has finally bubbled into fruition. At the end of last month, Nichola, a long-time Takoma Park resident and retail veteran (Takoma Bev, TPSS Co-op), opened her first business, Main Street Pearl, a self-described “bubble bar” at 2050 Carroll Avenue, in the space formerly occupied by Great Shoals Winery. According to Nichola, the idea of open-

ing her own business has been “brewing” since she was 9-years-old and started operating a pretend business in her play time. “Since I was a kid, I wanted to have my own brick and mortar joint,” she said. Closer to the present, Nichola began formulating business ideas and the concept behind Main Street Pearl over the last “five or so” years after she left her previous career working in nonprofits and academia to focus on community development and retail operations. When the Carroll Av-

enue retail space became available, she was ready for action. “The opportunity presented itself to build something new that my beloved Takoma Park needs right at this time,” she said. That something new – a self-described “bubbly bar, noshery and tuck shop”– offers a little bit of everything, a potentially perfect match for the eclectic demographics and interests that define Takoma Park. “There are a lot of things (offered),” Nichola agreed, “but there are central themes: Bubbles (carbonated or shaken); anything micro or hyper local, and anything super thoughtful about packaging or worker ethics.” Main Street Pearl's main feature is its bubbly drinks bar; featuring bubble tea, scratch sodas, kombucha, beer, cider, and sparkling wine. In terms of food, Nichola explained that a noshery is simply another word for restaurant or snack bar, serving small meals and snacks. It will feature offerings from local micro foodpreneurs with a frequently changing menu to support as many businesspeople as possible.

in my life have I been as supported as I am right now in large part because of my new living arrangements,” Nichola said. Along with Holly Harper and Herrin Hopper, Nichola co-owns a multi-family, co-housing property on Carroll Ave and their close relationship and conversations were instrumental in the creation of Main Street Pearl. “At our ‘Front Porch Society’ meetings, we were constantly collaborating as neighbors, real estate investors, and friends about how to make our aspirations and dreams come true,” said Harper. “Leandra mentioned early on that she had always wanted to own her own food and beverage establishment, so we began hammering out details in October. By December, she had a full plan in place, and we hit the ground running.” Harper, a small business marketing consultant, has stepped into the project management, marketing, and brand management role, while Hopper, a corporate attorney, handles legal, contracts, operating agreements, and other advisory roles. Beyond her immediate circle, Nichola also reached out to the community, creating a fundraising campaign via indiegogo (www.indiegogo.com/projects/open-main-street-pearl-s-doors#). “For me to be brave enough to pull off a project like this, I need to be doing it in community, so we asked the community for support, and they really came through (raising more than \$15,000),” Nichola said. Overlaying all of these challenges has been, of course, the pandemic, which has left Nichola conflicted, but undeterred. She admitted to feeling a little embarrassed about opening a business when so many others are struggling. “However, I do feel like there were just too many reasons to do it to say ‘no’. At every stage, I’d come up with reasons it could never work, and then those reasons would resolve, and I’d come up with other reasons,” she said. “But, that only makes me feel more resolved that it is the right time for us,” Nichola continued. Takoma needs fun – not fun at the expense of workers’ rights or the planet or our health – but good, super clean, fun... with bubbles on top.” For updates and other information, visit www.facebook.com/mainstreetpearl.

COVID-19 TESTING

FREE BI-WEEKLY TESTING

Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Ave

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

- Walk-in service - indoors
- Hours: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Wednesdays and Saturdays
- Testing is free.
- No identification, insurance, or doctor's note, or payment required.
- Call the Testing Helpline at 240-777-1755 for assistance with testing.

VACCINE Q&A

■ From page 10

Q: Will the vaccine end the Pandemic?

A: The vaccine is a major step in helping to prevent the pandemic, but will not be the immediate end to the pandemic. Production and distribution will take time, and it is important to continue safe practices of wearing a mask, social distancing, and washing our hands.

For more information about the vaccines, visit the following websites or talk with your health care provider.

- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/mrna.html
- Montgomery County website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/vaccine

Montgomery County also allows you to sign up to receive notice of when your group may start to receive the vaccine.

February 2021 Calendar

For the foreseeable future, we'll use this space to feature city resources and provide important updates on city services. However, let us know if you have a virtual, nonprofit event that would be of interest to City of Takoma Park residents, and we'll consider it for inclusion in the calendar. Deadline for the March issue is Feb. 12, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning Feb. 26. To submit virtual calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, please be advised that all events and meetings held in City facilities have been cancelled or postponed until further notice. Updates will be provided when events have been rescheduled. The Police Department is open 24/7 for emergency services. For information on Takoma Park Arts online events, visit takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/arts-and-humanities.

PUBLIC DAYS OF NOTE

President's Day - City Offices Closed

Monday, Feb. 15

All City offices and facilities will be closed for President's Day. The Takoma Park Police Department is open 24/7 for emergency services.

SHARE IDEAS

Attend virtual City Council meetings!

Wednesday, February 3, 7:30 p.m.

City Council Regular Meeting

Wednesday, February 24, 7:30 p.m.

City Council Regular Meeting

Wednesday, February 10, 7:30 p.m.

City Council Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 3, 7:30 p.m.

City Council Regular Meeting

Wednesday, February 17, 7:30 p.m.

City Council Regular Meeting

Detailed agendas are available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas.

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

- on the City Council Video Page of the City Website (<https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/meetings-and-documents/city-council-video/>)
- on City TV (RCN - Channel 13, HD Channel 1060 Comcast/xfinity - Channel 13 Verizon Fios - Channel 28), and Comcast/Xfinity HD Channel 997
- on Facebook (@TakomaParkMD/)

- on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/user/TakomaParkTV>)

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

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

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.

Qi Gong

Adult Fitness - Learn gentle movements to increase mobility and flexibility. Tuesdays, 7 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.

Zoomba Gold/Zumba Gold

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

Youth Dance

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

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Takoma Park Recreation Park Community Art Contest Extended to February 7

If you have not participated in the Takoma Park Recreation Center Community Art Contest yet, there is still time. We have extended the deadline for submissions to February 7. All participants will be entered into a raffle for prizes and final winners will have their art displayed at the new Recreation Center. Prizes will include \$25 Visa gift cards and gift cards for local, Takoma Park-based merchants, which will be awarded in a random drawing at the close of the contest. For more information and to participate in the Community Art Contest, visit <https://engage.takomaparkmd.gov>.

Yarrow Mamout and His Family: A Remarkable American Success Story

Thursday, Feb. 11, 1-2:15 p.m. Brought to Maryland on a slave ship in 1752 and enslaved for the next 40 years, Yarrow (his last name) didn't become a free man until he was 60 years old. He then acquired a house in Georgetown and enough money to retire on the interest from loans to white merchants and on stock dividends. In 1819, the great portrait painter Charles Willson Peale painted a portrait of him as a testament to racial equality. Our presenter for this fascinating story will be Jim Johnston, the author of *From Slave Ship to Harvard: Yarrow Mamout and the History of an African American Family*. This program is offered in collaboration with the Montgomery County Historical Society. Open to all; registration required. Go to villageoftakomapark.com, "Upcoming Events" list to register and receive Zoom link information.

Let's Play America Virtual Mid-Winter Play Day

Sunday, Feb. 14, 1 - 5 p.m. The event will feature circus acts, storytelling and exercise classes in English and Spanish, crafts with Jennifer Byrne, as well as Sporcle trivia and karaoke. More info: Visit letsplayamerica.org

Celebrate Lee Jordan Day 2021 WOWD RADIO 94.3 FM

Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Tune in for a special Black History Month program, "Preserving Stories from Takoma Park's African American Community." This program will feature highlights from a multiphase project documenting the community's past through oral history interviews with longtime residents. Elders, who grew up during segregation and its aftermath, reflect on life and work, identity and values, and the forging of a vibrant community in the face of racial and economic challenges.

Parkinson's and Movement Disorder Support Group

Do you have Parkinson's or another movement disorder? Or are you a caregiver? If so, you might be interested in our informal support group which meets monthly to share resources and experiences. Our meetings are virtual with a Zoom call, but soon we hope to return to in-person meetings at the Takoma Park Municipal Building. It's 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.

