Back to the books

By Sean Gossard

It’s that time of the year again when children return to the classroom — or in some cases their kitchen tables and computers — for another year of learning. Most school districts in D.C., Maryland and Virginia reopened in late August or early September, and to get ready for the upcoming school year, it’s a great time to check out some of the Takoma Park area’s bookstores.

Fair Day’s Play at 7050 Carroll Ave #102 will be hosting Pat “The Play Lady” Rumbaugh for a reading and book signing of her latest children’s book on Sunday, Sept. 26, from 9–10 a.m. and 1–2 p.m. Let’s Play Outside is the third book in her series with photographer Daniel Nakamura and is focused on getting children outside to play. Fair Day’s Play also offers up a huge variety of toys, games and books all meant to stimulate a child’s learning.

Online Resources for Students: Back-to-School Edition

By Anne LeVeque

The library has many online resources to support students at all levels, from preschool on up. These resources are generally user-friendly, but some may take a bit of patience to figure out. Try these out at home, but if you need some help come into the library and a staff member can assist you.

All these resources will require you to put in your library card number. Contact the Library if you have trouble logging in. The library cannot give card numbers over the phone, but we can arrange for a new card (if you’ve lost yours) or help with your current card (if it’s expired, for instance).

Pre-school Children:

• Early Learning Center by World Book has games, videos, activities, stories, and early learning basics.

• Tumblebook Library has ebooks, and animated read-alongs, along with puzzles and games, videos, and books in Spanish and French as well as English.

Elementary School Students:

• Infobits is a Gale resource arranged by topic, with news, pictures, and early learning basics.

• Tumblebook Library has ebooks, and animated read-alongs, along with puzzles and games, videos, and books in Spanish and French as well as English.

Information and Resources: Covid19

takomaparkmd.gov

Questions, Comments and Suggestions
askus@takomaparkmd.gov

#TogetherTKPK

The Return of Child Care

We are so excited to announce that the City of Takoma Park has begun reopening our facilities to the public! After eighteen months, our extended care programs Morning/Afternoon Addition (located at 7500 Maple Ave) and Before the Bell/After the Bell (located at 7315 New Hampshire Ave) have finally returned to our facilities. These two child care programs are affordable extended care programs in Takoma Park. Our programs are designed to provide before and after school care to children.

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Elementary School Students:

• Infobits is a Gale resource arranged by topic, with news, pictures, and early learning basics.

• National Geographic for Kids

ONLINE RESOURCES ▶ Page 13
Only negative votes or abstentions are reported here. Resolutions and ordinances are published online after adoption.

On July 21, 2021, the City Council adopted Ordinance 2021-33 awarding a contract for redistricting consulting services to FLO Analytics. The Council authorized up to $50,000 for these services. First reading of the ordinance was on July 14. By adoption of Ordinance 2021-23, the Council recommended approval of the subdivision and site plan for the property at 7402 Garland Avenue. The existing three-unit rental structure is to be renovated as a duplex to create homeownership opportunities for “missing middle housing” by the property owner, Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland Inc. Resolution 2021-24 approved a wage adjustment of 1.8 percent for staff represented by UFCW Local 400. Resolution 2021-25 approved a wage adjustment of 1.8 percent for staff not represented by a union.

At the City Council meeting on July 28, 2021, the Council adopted Resolution 2021-26, authorizing submission of Legislative Action Requests to the Maryland Municipal League. The requests focused on affordable housing, eviction prevention and data collection, and climate mitigation and adaptation. Resolution 2021-27 authorized the continued closure of the northbound lane of Laurel Avenue to enable outdoor seating and public gathering. It also directed the City Manager to explore financial assistance options for the Takoma Park Farmers Market to potentially assist with costs associated with the market’s move to a location on private property and to consider financial and other forms of assistance for small businesses not able to take advantage of street closure opportunities. By Resolution 2021-29, the City Council appointed members to the 2021–2022 Youth Council. The appointees are Dakota Pippins, Joy Thomas, Kaya Christy (Alternate), Julia Maynard, Kamilla Sorensen, Aresma Haleemriam, Leul Wondwosen, Noor Berhanu, Yacquub Nur, Soraya Henry, Faith Smith, and Evan Winters.

Resolution 2021-30 set the City Council’s summer recess to begin on July 29 and end on September 7, 2021. The Council adopted several ordinances on July 28. Ordinance 2021-34 approved FY22 Budget Amendment No. 1. Ordinance 2021-35 approved FY22 Stormwater Budget Amendment No. 1. (Councilmember Smith voted no.) Ordinance 2021-36 amended the Takoma Park Code Title 7, Purchasing and Taxation. (Councilmembers Kovar and Seamens voted no.) (First reading of Ordinances 2021-34, 2021-35, and 2021-36 took place on July 21.) Ordinance 2021-37 authorized a contract with Independent Officials Association for officiating services for Recreation Department sports programs. The contract amount is up to $13,500.

Official City Government Meetings

REMOTE/VIRTUAL AND HYBRID MEETINGS
We expect that many meetings will continue to take place in a remote/virtual or hybrid in-person/virtual format into the fall. 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.

For the month of September, the City Council will continue to meet on Zoom.

COMMENTING AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
The time limit per comment is three minutes. Requests for additional time, or requests to share slides or video at a City Council meeting, must be directed to the Mayor at least 24 hours in advance. Email kates@takomaparkmd.gov.

Written comments sent by email to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov or by U.S. mail will be shared with the full Council.

Commenting over Zoom: Individuals interested in commenting live during City Council meetings (over Zoom) must sign up before 5:00 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.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE
Wednesday, September 15 (The City Council will not meet.)
Wednesday, September 22, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, September 29, 7:30 p.m.

CITY BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION
Tuesday, September 28, 7 p.m.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
Thursday, September 9, 7 p.m.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
Thursday, September 23, 7 p.m.

NOISE CONTROL BOARD
TBA

PARKING MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
Thursday, September 16, 7:30 p.m.

POLICE CHIEF’S ADVISORY BOARD
Monday, September 20, 7 p.m.

RECREATION COMMITTEE
Thursday, September 16, 7 p.m.

TREE COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, September 14, 7:30 p.m. (This will be a joint Tree Commission/City Council meeting.)

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 301-891-7287 at least 48 hours in advance.

For older students in the area, Loyalty Bookstore at 823 Ellsworth Dr. in Silver Spring hosts weekly book readings and events with authors and poets. Some events (still mostly virtual) revolve around certain authors, like Agatha Christie, and others celebrate book releases, like the upcoming release of Things We Couldn’t Say by Jay Coles and Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé on Tuesday, Sept. 21. For more information on upcoming events, visit www.loyaltybookstores.com/event.

Catering to Spanish-speaking residents in the Takoma Park area, Rincon Cristiano (located at 676 New Hampshire Avenue) offers a wide variety of merchandise, including Spanish-language Bibles and others religious-themed books, along with Christian gifts and music.

Another staple of the DMV-area book scene is Politics and Prose (located at 5015 Connecticut Avenue NW). The independent bookstore has been holding author talks virtually and has several coming up in September. For those going back to the classroom, if your school has a reading list with Politics and Prose, you can get a 10% discount on books from the list. They are also holding a Fall Member Sale September 10–12, offering up 20% discounts for Politics and Prose members. For a full list of upcoming virtual activities, visit www.politics-prose.com.
Books-To-Go Continues!

The Takoma Park Maryland Library is continuing its Books-to-Go service and its Books-to-You (delivery) service. Here is what you need to know:

- Email your request to library-takomapark@gmail.com (preferred) or call 240-507-0229.
- In the subject line of your email, include the name on the account you are using and either your birthday (month and day, not year) or the last four digits of your library card.
- In your message, list the items you want to check out. Include the title, author, and call number for each item requested.
- Please check our catalog first at https://takoma.bywatersolutions.com to be sure that the item is available. Please limit your requests to 10 items per order. If a book is checked out, you may place a hold on it.
- We will notify you when your request has been filled. Our reply email will give you information on when you can pick up your request.
- When you arrive at the library parking lot, call 301-580-0085 and we will bring it out to you. Requests will be held for one week, and then the items will be checked back in.

**Note:** If you have overdue books, you will not be permitted to check out new ones!

Books-To-You

If you would like home delivery of your request (Takoma Park residents only), please indicate that in your email, with delivery in the subject line and your address and the best phone number to reach you in your message. We will notify you when your request will be delivered, and you will receive a call from 240-856-0225 when it arrives. Deliveries must be received in person; we will not leave books at your door.

How We Use Our Curb Space: Residents’ Input Needed

The space along our City streets is in demand for a variety of purposes: residential parking, visitor parking, commercial and employee parking, as well as potential other uses such as stormwater management, bike and scooter corrals, bike lanes, and vending or dining areas. The City Council appointed a group of residents, the Parking Management Task Force, to evaluate how our “curb space” is used and make recommendations to promote convenience, fairness, equity, climate response, and local commerce.

As we transition out of pandemic restrictions, the Parking Management Task Force is preparing for a series of public outreach sessions this fall (to include in-person as well as Zoom formats). The group has developed a set of possible action steps and would like to get your opinions about them via an online survey. The survey results will help guide discussion at public outreach sessions, and the Task Force will pay close attention to your responses as they refine their thinking and recommendations.

When the survey goes live, share it with others, and complete it! To take the survey and get more information about the Parking Management Task Force, go to the City website and type “Parking Management Study” on the search bar. Thank you for your participation! And watch for announcements about outreach sessions later in the fall.

Real Folks in Real Time: The 2021 Takoma Park Folk Festival

This year’s Takoma Park Folk Festival is coming to you live-streamed and showcasing the best local talent that could fit into a condensed schedule. The festival will feature its usual diverse program of music, including traditional folk and roots with more than a little soul, rock, and topical thrown in. Performers range from well-known local musicians and songwriters, to emerging artists who are already making their mark on the area’s music scene.

The festival will be broadcast from two venues: El Golfo Restaurant (8739 Flower Ave., Silver Spring) and the Takoma Park Community Center auditorium, and will be hosted by musician and festival program chair Wendy Lanxner and the radio personality and musician Mary Clifft. Depending on pandemic conditions, a limited number of audience seats may be available—check the festival’s website (www.tpff.org) and social media www.facebook.com/takomaparkfolkfestival for the most up-to-date information.

The performers were selected from over 100 applicants, and while they represent some of the best of the area’s artists, the organizers wish they could have accommodated many more of the deserving musicians. “We’re very proud of the 2021 program,” said Lanxner. “At the same time, we look forward to returning full scale and in-person next year.”

The September 12 program serves the core structure of the festival, which is organized around six separate performance stages: Abbott, featuring traditional music; Crossroads, featuring drumming and singer-songwriters; Grassy Nook, featuring young and emerging artists; Grove, featuring singer-songwriters; World, featuring world and international music; and Field, featuring roots, folk, soul, rock, and everything in between.

But wait, there’s more! Visit us on Festival Day for our crafts show and sale. We will be on the grounds of the Takoma Park Community Center on September 12 from 12 – 6:30 p.m. with some of the best crafters from past festivals and exciting new artisans, too. For more information visit www.tpff.org/crafts.

The TPFF Board thanks the City of Takoma Park and El Golfo Restaurant as hosts and the numerous other sponsors and local businesses whose financial and in-kind support help bring you the festival each year. The board is also enormously grateful for the many music-loving volunteers involved in putting on the festival, without whose year-round time and effort this event couldn’t happen. (If you’re interested in volunteering, please visit www.tpff.org/volunteering for additional information.)

For updated information on the program and performers, visit www.tpff.org.

Performers in the 2021 Folk Festival

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Look Down At Your Feet for Poetry By the Street

When you’re walking around town, don’t forget to look down to see poetry imprinted in new sidewalks.

Three poems have been stamped so far in an interactive public art project organized by the City of Takoma Park’s Arts and Humanities Division. A contest was held earlier this year where city residents of all ages could enter their original poems. A committee of local poets chose 10 adults and 10 children as the winners, who each received a $100 prize. The poems are being stamped now during new sidewalk construction or sidewalk repairs using large custom metal plates with raised letters.

“It’s exciting to see poetry by local residents in unusual locations,” Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith said. “Takoma Park is a very walkable city, so we wanted to bring some original poetry to people where they live.”

Nala Miller’s poem about her little green ball is stamped at the entrance to Opal Daniels Park next to 7414 Carroll Avenue. She is a third grader at Piney Branch Elementary School.

Richard Weil’s sidewalk poem is located at 8106 Flower Avenue. His poem is part of a lyric from a song he wrote and recently recorded. “I’m so fortunate that my poem is here for people to enjoy. It means a lot,” he said.

Aissatou Thiam is 7 years old, and her short, funny poem about ants in her pants is located on Flower Avenue near the Carroll Avenue intersection. “I picked this poem because I knew it would be on the sidewalk, and there are ants on the sidewalk,” she said.

#ArtHappensHere Banner Celebrates Women of Color

A new banner by Rockville artist Liliane Blom has been installed in Memorial Park to celebrate women of color and the reopening of Montgomery County’s creative economy.

The banner features Blom’s painting Mid Autumn with a portrait of Nepalese-born Karuna Skariah, an educator and mother who lives in Ellicott City. Memorial Park is across the street from the Takoma Park library at 101 Philadelphia Avenue.

Murals and banners designed by local artists have been installed in multiple locations in the #ArtHappensHere project sponsored by the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County.

Blom is a multi-media artist who fuses video, photography, and painting in interactive and immersive artwork. Go to lilianeblom.com to see more of her work.

Free Arts Events Return to the Takoma Park Community Center

Free film screenings, art exhibitions, and other arts events will be featured at the Takoma Park Community Center in September after the building reopens to the public.

The Takoma Park Arts series shifted online during the pandemic to reach people at home with virtual events. Future events will return to the Community Center at 7500 Maple Avenue. Masks will be required.

“We’re very excited about holding our arts events in person again,” Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith said. “The arts are a vital part of Takoma Park’s identity, and we’re happy to share the talents of artists and performers from across the D.C. area.”

All events in the Takoma Park Arts series are free to everyone. You can find details about our upcoming events and sign up for our Takoma Park Arts e-newsletter at takomaparkmd.gov/takomaarts.
**EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT**

*Piggy Bank Pioneers*
Welcome to the Piggy Bank Pioneers where we introduce financial concepts to primary school aged children. Young people learn economic ideas such as forms of money, needs vs wants, budgeting, saving, and investing through interactive games, songs, dances, and activities such in a fun, developmentally appropriate way. Through fun activities, piggy bank pioneers identify ways to build wealth, credit, and the importance of being responsible. This experience fosters growth in the self-awareness and social awareness competency of social and emotional learning. Along with other common core standards, the information reviewed in the Piggy Bank Pioneers class reinforces the idea that quantities can be represented and counted while providing opportunities for students to interpret data.

**Virtual**

- **4-7 years**
  - Saturdays, 10-11 a.m.
  - September 11-October 16
  - **Free**

**SPORTS**

*Tot Sports*
Children are introduced to the fundamentals of sports such as soccer and basketball. The goal of this program is to provide the opportunity for each child to develop motor skills and nurture their growth socially and emotionally through teamwork and good sportsmanship.

**Instructor:** Recreation Staff

**Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium**
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
3-5 years
6 Week Sessions
Saturday, 9-10 a.m.
September 18-October 23
$55

**DANCE**

*Pre-Ballet*
Pre-Ballet for ages 4-8 is a combination of music and movement that emphasizes learning basic ballet vocabulary, movement patterns and musicality in a creative movement. By introducing students to the basic shapes, positions, postures and traditions of classical ballet, the Pre-Ballet curriculum enhanced both cognitive and physical development at this important age.

**Takoma Park Community Center**
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades K-5
6-12 years
September 23-October 28
**Residents:** Free / Non-resident: $10

**ENVIRONMENTAL**

*Hands On Gardening with Carla*
Learn how to cultivate plants from seeds and cuttings, care for plants and grow flowers, vegetables, fruits, and house plants. Parents are welcome to participate with their children and/or teens. Fun for the entire family.

**Takoma Park Middle School Green House**
Instructor: Carla Perlo
6-13 years
September 23-October 28
**Residents:** $20 / Non-resident: $22

**EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT**

*Tokam Park Kids Chess Meetup*
Kids (Kindergarten - 8th grade) are welcome to attend the Takoma Park Kids Chess Meet Up which occurs on Sundays from 1:45–3:30 p.m. at Heffner Park Community Center. Sessions may begin with a brief lesson, but general play will begin by 2 p.m.

Beginners are welcome. Bring your own tournament board if you have one, but there will be extra. For more information, please contact Adam Winship at akamachess@gmail.com.

**No meetings on 10/10, 10/13, 11/28**
Despite the devastating impact of the COVID-19 health pandemic, the City has continued to move forward with the implementation of this most important plan. With the goal of meeting the critical housing needs of residents, the City has focused on increased engagement with tenants, property owners, property managers, and real estate professionals. These key stakeholders have been able to provide input and insight that has assisted city staff in providing more effective and efficient services and assistance.

Beginning in March 2020, the City experienced a significant turnover in residential properties especially rental properties. As a result, there has been a record number of tenants and tenant associations seeking information about their rights and their ability to stabilize their housing through the City's Tenant Opportunity to Law. The staff have worked to provide outreach and education to support and protect renters, to avoid displacement, and encourage homeownership.

While the City’s rent stabilization program has allowed tenants to avoid being rent burdened in a region that has seen exponential increases in housing prices, it has also made home ownership unaffordable and unattainable. Through partnerships with Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland, Housing Initiative Partnership, National Housing Trust, Manna, and Mi Casa the City has developed a pipeline of partners committed to providing affordable homeownership opportunities.

As the world continues to change, this strategic plan will be critical to ensuring that the City continues to meet the challenges ahead and opportunities to improve the lives of residents and to produce positive growth in Takoma Park.

The City of Takoma Park and Montgomery County are prepared to assist residents who are struggling financially with meeting their housing expenses. The impact of COVID-19 on Takoma Park residents extends to renters and homeowners and may continue throughout the end of 2021. With the reopening of the courts and pending evictions, it is important for residents to seek financial assistance.

Montgomery County and the City of Takoma Park are working to ensure that financial support is available to prevent eviction, foreclosure, disconnection of utilities, and to address the need for food. The first step is for residents to reach out for help.

The Montgomery County COVID-19 Rent Relief Program – Phase 3 is available to assist tenants in resolving outstanding back rent. This program is open to residents of Montgomery County who are behind in rent because of COVID-19. Eligible households may receive up to $12,000 for rent owed or provide a rent credit for future rent payments. The application for assistance can be completed by either the landlord or the tenant. More information is available at www.MC311.com/RentRelief or by calling 311.

The City of Takoma Park is also assisting residents who are behind in rent, homeowner association fees, facing foreclosure, utility disconnection, or need help with food. Tenants behind in rent should begin the application process for the Montgomery County COVID-19 Rent Relief Program first. The City will also work with property owners who have lost rental income due to COVID-19. Don’t wait to get help. Reach out to the City via email at housing@takomaparkmd.gov or by telephone at 301-891-7119.
In partnership with the City of Takoma Park, Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland (HFHMM) will convert a multi-family rental property located on Garland Avenue into two affordable homeownership opportunities.

The project began in November 2020 when the City of Takoma Park assigned its Right of First Refusal to purchase the Garland property to Habitat. At that time, the City also provided $200,000 from the Housing Reserve Fund to subsidize the development of the properties, ensuring the families selected to purchase the homes would not be cost-burdened.

“Montgomery County is one of the most affluent, fastest-growing communities in the nation; yet thousands of residents cannot afford adequate housing. Housing costs have sky-rocketed and income growth has not kept up – making the dream of homeownership almost impossible for lower income families,” said Sarah Reddinger, Vice President of Community Development for HFHMM. “If not for the significant financial investment from the City of Takoma Park, we would not be able to provide new affordable ownership opportunities in this part of the county.”

The existing multi-family rental property will be fully renovated into a duplex (one two-bedroom home, one three-bedroom home), using sustainable materials and following the City’s Climate Emergency Response Framework guidelines. HFHMM will incorporate energy efficiency standards into its building practices, such as continuous spray foam insulation for the entire structure, water sense fixtures, LED lighting, smart thermostats, and Energy Star mechanical equipment and appliances. This rehab will also be the first example of gas abandonment in a residential development in the City.

Once development is complete, Habitat will sell the duplex homes to two local families unable to afford a home through the traditional market. Providing access to affordable homeownership is critical to building generational wealth. By providing homeownership opportunities for families at every income level, the City of Takoma Park is working to break down the racial wealth and ownership gaps to build a more equitable community.

Two Local Families Selected for Affordable Homeownership Opportunity

DANA FAMILY

Nafkote Dana always dreamed of being a homeowner. A single mother originally from Ethiopia, Nafkote has rented in Takoma Park for nearly 20 years. Her three young children were born here and now attend TPES, and her family loves being a part of the Takoma Park community. However, with average home prices well out of reach, fulfilling the dream of homeownership without leaving Takoma Park seemed increasingly impossible.

Through a friend, Nafkote learned Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland and the City of Takoma Park were developing two affordable homes on Garland Avenue. After a months-long application and selection process, Nafkote and her family were selected to purchase the three-bedroom, two-bathroom unit out of more than 100 applicants.

“I couldn’t believe that I was selected from everyone that applied,” said Nafkote. “I can only imagine how much our lives will change once we own our home. My children will have enough space; I love my new backyard and look forward to seeing them playing out there. I just want to see the excitement on their faces.”

ZEWDIE FAMILY

Surafel Zewdie, his wife Adanech, and their three children immigrated to the United States in 2007 from Ethiopia. Their two oldest children are now college graduates and have established families of their own. The Zewdie’s and their youngest son were selected for the two-bedroom, two-bathroom Garland Avenue home.

“When I received the call from Habitat, I was very, very happy. I thanked God that my dream to own a home would be realized. My family cheered. They were very happy and excited to hear the news,” said Surafel. “Above all, we know that homeownership will provide freedom and peace of mind that we never experienced renting. We will start building equity and family wealth over time. We are most excited about having our own home, knowing the money we pay is going toward building a future for ourselves.”
An Energy-Efficient Redesign Gives New Life to 320 Lincoln Avenue in Takoma Park

In Spring 2021, the City of Takoma Park received notification of the pending sale of a small cottage on Lincoln Avenue. Because the property was a rental, and the existing renter had declined to purchase the home, the City could exercise its right to purchase the property through the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Law (TOPL). At that time, the City selected the nonprofit developer, Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc. (HIP), to develop the property into an affordable homeowner opportunity.

HIP is a 30-year-old housing developer and counseling agency specializing in transforming small, underutilized, and inefficient spaces for sale to first-time homeowners. Since 1998, HIP has been revitalizing neighborhoods by purchasing and renovating, or building nearly 100 homes in Prince George’s County, thereby helping first-time buyers realize their dreams of owning a home and building generational wealth.

The development of the Lincoln Avenue property is financed through a $200,000 loan from the City’s Housing Reserve Fund, which was adopted by ordinance of the city council on March 17, 2021. In addition, the home’s proximity to the new Purple Line light rail qualified the project for an additional grant of $175,000 from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development’s National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund.

The construction is expected to be completed in Spring 2022. HIP’s renovation plan nearly doubles the amount of living space by building a vertical addition that will accommodate a total of 4 bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms. Additional improvements are focused on increasing insulation, adding new windows and roofing in line with Energy Star recommendations, and eliminating all gas and oil appliances, which contribute to carbon pollution.

“We are excited to expand our “HIP Homes” activity into neighboring Takoma Park and Montgomery County,” said Maryann Dillon, HIP’s Executive Director. “Our primary goal for accepting this new challenge is to provide a first-time homebuyer with an affordable and energy-efficient home to raise their family in for many years while making wonderful memories.”

Upon completion, the home will be sold to a qualified first-time buyer earning less than 120% of the area median income. Buyers must attend a Homebuyer Education Workshop and complete pre-purchase counseling with HIP’s certified housing counselors. Virtual seminars are available monthly, and a schedule can be found on HIP’s website at www.HIPhomes.org.

Montgomery County Home Sharing Program Offers a Way to Have a More Comfortable Life

Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP) launched its Montgomery County Home Sharing program in January 2021 to help homeowners who have a spare room or ADU in their home to rent, but who might benefit from some free advice and counsel. HIP helps with identifying a compatible housemate, screening them, and negotiating an amicable home sharing agreement.

According to Michele Higgs, HIP’s Outreach Coordinator, homeowners must live in their property full-time to participate, and offer home sharing arrangements for 6 months or longer.

“Sharing your home with a stranger is a big decision that requires some thoughtful planning. However, choosing the right housemate can also bring many benefits - reduce social isolation while aging in place, create an additional source of monthly income, and build a new friendship,” noted Michele.

“Homeowners can also benefit by offering a clean and affordable option for renters searching for affordability in an expensive rental market. We are seeing average rents in the county range from $750 - $1,200/month, depending on the size of the space, level of privacy and other amenities.”

HIP is a private, nonprofit developer and HUD-approved housing counseling agency in Maryland dedicated to revitalizing neighborhoods. HIP’s bilingual counselors provide a range of free counseling and advocacy services to renters, first-time homebuyers, and homeowners remotely and through their offices in Germantown, Gaithersburg, and Hyattsville.

The Home Sharing Program is supported by Montgomery County’s Department of Health & Human Services and offers homeowners two (2) months of free access to the Silvernest online matching platform. HIP’s counselors assist clients with navigating the portal, setting up their profile and uploading photos, and facilitating both virtual and in-person interviews with candidates. Both homeowners and renters are required to submit to a background check. Lease creators, automated rent payments, and Homesharing Insurance are also provided through the Silvernest portal as part of the program.

Habitat Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are vital to Habitat’s work of building decent and affordable homes. Throughout September and October, Habitat and the City will welcome volunteers of all skill and experience levels to build alongside them at Garland Avenue and other locations.

Volunteers can sign up for the opportunities below at: http://vhub.at/ffhmmtakomapark or email questions to volunteer@habitatmm.org

GARLAND AVE. BUILD - Construction
(For volunteers 18 years and older)
September 8th, 16th, 22nd & 29th
9:30 am to 3 pm
Thursdays, October 14th, 21st & 28th
9:30 am to 3 pm

PLAYHOUSE BUILD - Youth Volunteering
(For volunteers under the age of 18)
Saturdays, October 23rd and October 30th
10 am - 3 pm

ReSTORE - Family Volunteering
(For volunteers 14 years and older)
Sundays, September 26th and October 10th
2-5 pm
Saturday, October 9th
2-5 pm

change the world
Edwin Adino didn’t know his apartment was for sale when he was notified that a third party was purchasing his home. But thanks to the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Law (TOPL), established by the City Council in 1986, Mr. Andino had a right to match the offer.

TOPL provides Takoma Park residents who rent, like Mr. Andino, with the right to purchase their rental in the event it is placed on the market for sale or a third party offers to purchase the home.

The law increases the possibility for tenants to become first-time home buyers. Affected tenants have a specified time period based on the number of rental units in their building to match a third-party purchase contract that the landlord has accepted.

All owners selling a residential rental facility must comply with this law and notify tenants of their right to purchase the property. While some rental units, such as accessory apartments, are exempt from this law, Mr. Andino’s apartment home was subject to TOPL.

After reaching out to the City, Mr. Andino applied for downpayment assistance through the City’s Home Stretch Program, which provides $10,000 to income-qualified buyers. Home Stretch works in concert with TOPL to ensure homeownership is a possibility for all residents.

Using both TOPL and Home-stretch, Mr. Andino was able to purchase his condominium. Without the full integration of these two key programs, Mr. Andino might have been displaced from his rental home. Now, due to The Home Stretch Program and TOPL, he is a proud homeowner in Takoma Park.

Visit takomaparkmd.gov or email grants@takomaparkmd.gov for more information about the Home Stretch Program and to apply.
Zumba for Teens (Outdoor Class)
Zumba classes for teens feature kid-friendly routines based on original Zumba® choreography. We break down the steps, add games, activities, and cultural exploration elements into the class structure. Zumba for Teens help develop a healthy lifestyle and incorporate fitness as a natural part of a teen’s life by making fitness fun. Classes incorporate key childhood development elements like leadership, respect, teamwork, confidence, self-esteem, memory, creativity, coordination, and physical activity.
Takoma Park Community Center
Outdoor Basketball Court
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades: 6 – 12
Wednesday, 3:45 – 4:45 p.m.
September 15 – November 17
Resident: Free / Non-Resident: $10

Friday Night Lights
Join us every second Friday of the month for a fun filled Friday Night. Each month we will host a different event to include movie watch parties, DJ dance offs, Minute to Win it games, trivia, and game nights to include a few. Prizes will be given, and you can enter to win a family pizza night on us! For more information, please contact Leicia Monfort at leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
7215 New Hampshire Avenue
Grades: 6 – 12
Friday, 6 – 8 p.m.
September 10 & October 8
Free with membership

Teen Talk Tuesdays
Join Ms. Leici for Teen Talk Tuesdays! Grab your seats and we’ll bring the “tea”! Let’s talk about fashion, fads, questions, advice, current events, etc. You can have a few. Some weeks we will have experts or special guests join in on the conversations. For more information, please contact Leicia Monfort at leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov.
Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades: 6 – 12
Tuesday, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
September 14 – December 21
Free with membership

Art
Can’t Draw A Straight-Line Drawing Drawing is a fun and inexpensive art. Students can end up with wonderful drawings to frame. From pencils to oil pastels to magic markers the class will be looking at values, negative space, color, and perspective. No experience is necessary. The instructor will provide some materials for students to use and try out. A list of suggested supplies will be sent to students.
Spring: Park
6999 Poplar Avenue
16 & older
Saturday, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
September 18 – October 9
Free

Painting Exploration
In this beginner class, participants are encouraged to try different materials and methods, as well as explore some of the basic elements of design in their work. Participants will try painting with simple landscapes, as well as painting from their imaginations. We will examine paintings by other artists and give helpful feedback to one another in a comfortable setting. Grab a brush and come by the studio to explore painting!
Hazardous Materials: Hands and clothes should be washed after using clay and glazes. All glazes are non-toxic and food safe. Fettling knives and other tools with sharp edges or points such as sheakers and cutters are used in the class. A non-refundable $35 materials fee is due to the instructor on the first day of class. Later in the session, participants may want to purchase more materials from a list the instructor will provide.

Q&A with Chelsea Nunez, Recreation Programs Supervisor
We are pleased to announce the promotion of Chelsea Nunez to Recreation Programs Supervisor. Since joining us in 2010, she has previously worked with the Recreation Department in the following roles: Child Care, Teen Programs and Sports. She will oversee Summer Camps and School Before & After Care Programs at our Community Center. Here is a little bit about her!

Tell us a little about yourself and your hobbies.
A: I was born in New York, New York but have lived in Maryland since 2002. I moved to Takoma Park in 2004 and have lived in the area since. I attended PBES, TPMS, and MBHS, so I’d say that I know the area pretty well and I’ve worked with the City of Takoma Park since 2010. I love spending time with my 18-month-old son and my family. I love to read and watch movies.

What recreation programs were you involved in growing up, and how do you feel they shaped who you are now?
A: I was in drama classes at the Community Center before it was remodeled (if that gives you an idea of how long ago it was). The class was held in a large open space on the third floor. I played for Takoma softball, basketball, and soccer. I swam for Long Branch and the YMCA, I even took figure skating and horseback riding lessons. Participating in all these activities really sparked my interest in recreation. I’ve always known I wanted to work with children and growing up with all these activities solidified that dream.

What are you most excited about regarding your new position?
A: I am so excited to be working for the Recreation Department! I’ve been working with the City part-time since I was in high school. Starting this position and joining the team full-time is truly a dream come true. I remember as a kid seeing Greg, Leicia, and others working so well with the community. It reinforced my dream of working not only with children but also the community.

Family Outdoor Movie Night Returns again on Saturday, September 11 at Ed Wilhelm Field
The Family Outdoor Movie returns at dusk at Ed Wilhelm Field (behind Pinney Branch Elementary School). Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a movie under the stars with your family! The movie will be a family friendly “G” or “PG” rated hit. Bring snacks and your own drink. Due to limited parking, walking is encouraged. COVID-19 protocols will be followed. Visit our website takomaparkmd.gov/recreation, or contact John Webster at 301-891-7225 or johnw@takomaparkmd.gov to vote on the movie. For more information, contact John Webster at 301-891-7225 or johnw@takomaparkmd.gov.

Let’s Play America Play Day returns on Saturday, September 25 at Takoma Park Middle School
Attention! Attention! Everyone, everywhere! It’s time for you to let your hair down, put on your comfy shoes, and get ready to play! Yes, that’s right. Let’s Play America and the Takoma Park Recreation Department have teamed up to present to you the 13th Annual Play Day! Rain or Shine. This event will have tons of fun activities for the entire family to enjoy, including the infamous Touch-A-Truck. To see a full listing of activities and performances, please visit www.letsplayamerica.org. See you there!

Monster Bash
Join us Saturday, October 30. The Takoma Park Recreation Department staff is preparing for a host of events that are designed for the entire family. We are hoping to be back to normal with a parade down Pennsylvania Avenue and a party in the Community Center parking lot. We will continue to monitor COVID as we move closer to the date. For additional information for this event, please contact John Webster at johnw@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7290. In the event of inclement weather, the Monster Bash will be moved to Takoma Park Middle School and there will not be any road closures. To receive an update on weather conditions, please call our inclement weather line at 301-891-7101, ext. 5605.

SPECIAL EVENTS

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Virtual class links can be found at takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc.
Indoor & Outdoor classes starting this month!
Director’s Column: Latinx at the Library

By Jessica Jones

September 15–October 15 is National Hispanic Heritage Month. We are also calling it Latinx Heritage Month because the term “Hispanic” is not as inclusive as we want it to be, and everyone should have the opportunity to self-identify in the way that feels most accurate for themselves.

Did you know that the term “Hispanic” is about someone’s relationship to the Spanish language? “Hispanic” refers to people who speak Spanish or are descended from Spanish-speaking populations, while “Latinx” refers to people from Latin America, including Indigenous peoples and those who come from countries that weren’t colonized by Spain. Someone from Spain could be Hispanic, but they would not be Latinx. Someone from Brazil could be Latinx, but not Hispanic. And someone from Mexico could be Hispanic, Latinx, and Chicano. Layers!

In recognizing Hispanic and Latinx people, the Library offers lots of opportunities for you to take in works about intersections of identity and culture under this umbrella. Here are a few recommendations for different ages and interests:

Children’s books: Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor’s book Just Ask! Be Different. Be Brave. Be You encourages readers to be curious, ask questions, and stand up for what’s right. Yuyi Morales has books in both English and Spanish, including Dreamers/Soñadores. Duncan Tonatiuh’s whole body of work is wonderful, but Esquivel! Space Age Sound Artist could be augmented with some Spotify or YouTube music by the book’s subject Juan Garcia Esquivel, because who doesn’t love a three-minute dance party?

YA books: Isabel Allende channels her Chilean American heritage in her novel Woven in Moonlight about a young woman named Xenia. Her search for a magical weapon, Gabi. A Girl in Pieces by Isabel Quintero is for teen readers looking to see themselves and their friends, as well as adults looking to vicariously experience those formative years from a new perspective.

Graphic novels and comics: Lowriders in Space by Kaitly Camper and Raúl the Third is super fun for the elementary and middle grades readers. Tony Medina’s YA graphic novel I Am Alfonso Jones spotlights an AfroLatino protagonist who becomes a victim of police violence. Angola Junga by Marcelo Díaz-Chavez is a work of historical fiction for YA and adult readers that takes us to 1600s Brazil to learn about runaway enslaved persons’ histories.

Adult books: I love genre fiction, so if anyone reads Mexican Gothic, or any of the other horror or sci-fi/fantasy books by Sylvia Moreno Garcia, come talk to me about it! Same with Mariana Enriquez from Argentina, who wrote Things We Lost in the Fire and The Dangers of Smoking in Bed, two of my favorite collections of horror in the last several years. Looking for a classic? Gloria Anzaldúa is a legend, which is why we still have her 1990 title Making Face, Making Soul, or Naciendo Caras: Creative and Critical Perspectives by Feminists of Color. I’ve mentioned several challenging reads, but it’s so important to see Latinx joy, too. Fitting that bill is Luis Alberto Urrea’s novel The House of Broken Angels, about a Mexican American family coming together in San Diego.

Bonus program: Did you know we have a Spanish Circle Time on Zoom? Sisterra Geria leads a Circle Time en español (in Spanish) on Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Email library@takomaparkmd.gov for more information about joining in!

This list is just the beginning. For more recommendations, Justice Sotomayor would tell you to Just Ask! We’re happy to connect you with stories you will love.
Q&A

Five More Questions for Chelsea Nunez

1. Favorite Place/Activity in Takoma Park: The community center

2. Best Thing about Working in Takoma Park: I get to serve a community that I grew up in.

3. What’s on Your Desk Right Now: Health/Hygiene Signage, calendar, staff schedule, childcare forms/reports

4. Best Advice You Ever Got (and from who): Better self-talk. Instead of, Why does this always happen to me? Think/say, What is this teaching me? Instead of, I should’ve known better. Think/say, I did the best I could with what I knew at the time. One of my high school teachers told me this.

5. If I had a magic wand for a day, I would... cast spells to help me clean and cook faster after work, so I could spend more time with my 18-month-old son and family.

Learn more about other new City staff members in the Fall City Guide inside this issue of the newsletter.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Britannica Library

• Britannica Library offers reliable information on almost any subject. There are articles, videos, images, and more.

• Britannica Library for Children offers reliable information on almost any subject. There are articles, videos, interactive maps, great activities, and much more. This site also has a dictionary; however, the dictionary does not include higher vocabulary words that some students might encounter. There is a section devoted to science projects that can be very helpful for students looking for ideas and includes a section on “How to do a Science Project.”

Middle and High School Students:

Encyclopedia Estudiantil Hallazgos is an encyclopedia and dictionary in Spanish, produced by World Book. It has links to periodicals from all over the Spanish-speaking world. These are direct links, so may not all offer full text.

Teens

Enrich

TEEN BOOKCLOUD

Teen Book Cloud is a collection of ebooks (from the creators of Tumblebooks) with a great selection of graphic novels, classic literature, educational videos, and audiobooks. They also have “enhanced novels,” which allow a student to bookmark, highlight, make notes, and listen to narration. There is a section specifically for AP English, with all the works that might be covered in those classes.

World Book Student is for upper grades and includes useful tools such as a citation builder along with the encyclopedia articles. Infobase ebooks has an enormous number of titles, many of them in the succinct Facts on File format. It too has a citation feature which will enable a student to quickly build citations in the appropriate style. Gale ebooks is linked on our page as “hundreds of reference volumes.” This resource has many of the well-known DK books, including the Eyewitness books and DK Readers. It also has the Dummies series, which seems to have a book on every possible topic.

RECREATION

Explore is an EBSCO database that has full text for thousands of publications including books, articles, videos, news sources, and more. The interface is not the most user-friendly one, but if you know what you’re looking for, it can be very useful. It also has citation tools for the older student.

Britannica Escolar is a Spanish-language encyclopedia for students. Once you log in, you can choose either elementary or secondary level when you search.

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Prepare to Protect

By Claudine Schweber, co-chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee

Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love. The 2021 theme for National Preparedness Month is Prepare to Protect. Protecting everyone you love is particularly relevant, as learned during these past two years. Last year it was important to have a plan to shelter in place, evacuate, establish communications with others and have designated meeting places. This year, COVID is in flux, and as recent storms further reminded us, being prepared remains important and can help us deal with any emergency.

This year’s theme Prepare to Protect has information in four key areas:
1. Make a plan.
2. Build a kit.
3. Prepare for disasters.
4. Teach youth about preparedness.

The Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee recommends that you prepare now for any future emergency. What should you do? You can start with the following suggestions:

Make sure you have basic supplies for power outages, sheltering place, such as flashlights, batteries, tools and clean-up supplies, dried and canned food, bottled water, and other essentials. Some of these items may be on sale at local stores. Details are available at takomaparkmd.gov/about-takoma-park/emergency-preparedness-information.

Set up a monthly reminder. This site Do 1 Thing provides “small steps” for monthly preparations, such as making a plan, having a “go bag,” sufficient water, shelter, communications and more. You can sign up for the monthly notice or click on the panel that shows icons for the 12 items (http://dlo-tiling.com).

Don’t wait, communicate. Identify a contact person in case you or family members are injured or in distress, and let the person know (plus one out of area contact). Note: make sure they know about each other!

• Make sure the cell phone is completely charged, get a portable charger.
• Put emergency contacts in your phones. Note: at least one contact should be out-of-the-area.
• Text first; then call/email. If you are in a crowded area or mass media situation, text may get through faster.
• Let the contact person know your status/location as soon as possible.

Take care of the elderly and persons with disabilities. Develop a communication and evacuation plan, including the above. Set up a neighbor-to-neighbor help plan.

Identify a meeting place. Where will you gather after the fire, flood, other danger? Share that information and tell your emergency contacts.

Remember: Being prepared prevents being scared!

Contact us at 301-8891-7126 or tepc@takomaparkmd.gov. Join us once a month for “Dear Beatrice Prepared” on Talk of Takoma WOWD/LP 94.3FM.

Important Information

• Families: Parents and children must know how to reach each other. Update contact lists regularly!
• Quick exits: Make it a habit to always find the exits. Make sure each is accessible, opens easily and leads to safety—Whether it’s a school, an office building, your house or where you are visiting.
• Power outages: If your life or someone nearby depends on electricity for life-support or other equipment, sign up for Emergency Medical Equipment Notification online at https://www.pepco.com/MyAccount/CustomerSupport/Pages/DC/EmergencyMedicalEquipment.aspx or call 202-833-7500.
• Takoma Park Alert: Sign up now for warnings and updates on dangerous situations, such as tornadoes, fires, etc. (www.takomaparkmd.gov/proalert).
• Communicating in varied languages: If needed to interpret information, identify a translator for non-English speakers. Keep that person informed about contacts and alerts.
• Technology assistance: For those without a computer or unable to use one, identify someone who can be the information lifeline.
In Memoriam: Wolfgang Johannes Mergner (May 5, 1933—July 25, 2021)

Wolfgang was born in Moshi, Tanzania, where his parents ran a Lutheran Mission hospital. He lived there until he was seven years old and had vivid memories of his early years. He and his mother and brothers were sent back to Würzburg, Germany in 1939 at the start of World War II. These early experiences of war and survival deeply affected him and shaped his perspective of the world and human strength and weakness.

After some experimentation, Wolfgang attended medical school, first in Heidelberg, Germany and then in Giessen where he met the love of his life, Gertrud Weber. They wed shortly before they left for Iowa City, Iowa, US for (what they thought would be) a three-year internship at the University of Iowa. Their children were born in Iowa. Once Gertrud completed her medical school education, they moved to Durham, North Carolina where Wolfgang earned his PhD.

They moved to Columbia, Maryland in 1971, and Wolfgang joined the University of Maryland School of Medicine in the Department of Pathology. Mid-career, he also completed a year of research at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. He loved doing research and loved to work with the graduate students. His later research mainly focused on the heart, and his groundbreaking research found that it was possible to recover dead heart muscle, a breakthrough in regenerative medicine.

In the late 80s, they made their home in Takoma Park, Maryland. In 1998, Wolfgang retired and dedicated his life to his community. He started volunteering at the Montgomery County Mediation Center and eventually founded the Village of Takoma Park, with the mission of providing intergenerational support to seniors and persons with disabilities who wish to live actively in Takoma Park. Wolfgang was passionate about music, books, hiking, and having an impact on his community. He and Gertrud studied Spanish together, traveled and gardened prolifically. They dedicated much of their time to their grandchildren, including home-schooling and supporting them in a myriad of other ways. He always wanted to be a part of his grandchildren’s lives and would listen thoughtfully to whatever new hobby or job they were currently pursuing. His passion for ideas and for life had a great impact on everyone who knew him, especially his family.

He was married to the love of his life Gertrud for 58 years. He loved his children, Eva and Christopher, his daughter-in-law Julia and beloved grandchildren Sophie, Stella Liana, and Joy. Those who knew him well were lucky to have known and loved such a thoughtful and caring man.
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Medicare Update
Thursday, Sept. 30 at 1 p.m.
Auditorium - Takoma Park Community Center
for people already on a Medicare plan and in preparation for the open enrollment period that begins in October, the Village of Takoma Park and SHIP will be hosting a Medicare presentation. The presentation will take place in the Auditorium at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, and it may be simultaneously broadcast on cable TV. For more information about this program, please contact the Village of Takoma Park at villageoftp@gmail.com or 301-646-2109. villageoftakomapark.com.

Enhance Your Fitness
Tuesdays, 8:45–9:45 a.m.
55 & up
ReVamp Fit Home Workout
Wednesdays, 10–11 a.m.
Spirit Group Fitness
New videos uploaded each Wednesday
Jazz Dance
Thursdays, 6–7 p.m.
6–13 years

Walk to School on Oct. 6!
It’ll do you a world of good, and it’s good for the world. The reasons to walk to school are obvious and numerous. Nearly half of Takoma Park families choose walking to school on a regular basis and even more walk on Walk to School Day. Walking is good for us. It wakes up our brains and connects us to nature and our environment. It’s safe and healthy. Choosing to walk over driving means fewer cars and reduced emissions around schools. And it walking to school connects us to each other.

Takoma Park Safe Routes to School helps organize Walk to School Day at local schools. Students who walk will be greeted with reflective items and educational materials to enhance safety and encourage walking more regularly. Check with your school’s administration or PTA to see how Walk to School Day will be celebrated this year! Then join the fun on Oct. 6 and every day!

Parkinson’s and Movement Disorder Support Group
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September 2021 Calendar

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SHARE IDEAS
Attend City Council meetings!

Wednesday, September 15
The City Council will not meet.

Wednesday, September 22, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 29, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Regular Meeting

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September 2021 Calendar

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Medicare Update
Thursday, Sept. 30 at 1 p.m.
Auditorium - Takoma Park Community Center
for people already on a Medicare plan and in preparation for the open enrollment period that begins in October, the Village of Takoma Park and SHIP will be hosting a Medicare presentation. The presentation will take place in the Auditorium at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, and it may be simultaneously broadcast on cable TV. For more information about this program, please contact the Village of Takoma Park at villageoftp@gmail.com or 301-646-2109. villageoftakomapark.com.

Enhance Your Fitness
Tuesdays, 8:45–9:45 a.m.
55 & up
ReVamp Fit Home Workout
Wednesdays, 10–11 a.m.
Spirit Group Fitness
New videos uploaded each Wednesday
Jazz Dance
Thursdays, 6–7 p.m.
6–13 years

Walk to School on Oct. 6!
It’ll do you a world of good, and it’s good for the world. The reasons to walk to school are obvious and numerous. Nearly half of Takoma Park families choose walking to school on a regular basis and even more walk on Walk to School Day. Walking is good for us. It wakes up our brains and connects us to nature and our environment. It’s safe and healthy. Choosing to walk over driving means fewer cars and reduced emissions around schools. And it walking to school connects us to each other.

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