

Back to the books

By Sean Gossard



Credit: Henning Fuller

A Fair Days Play's is in the heart of Takoma Park.

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.

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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



CHILD CARE □ Page 3

Information and Resources: Covid19

takomaparkmd.gov

Questions, Comments and Suggestions

askus@takomaparkmd.gov



#TogetherTKPK

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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 e-books, 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 videos.
- *National Geographic for Kids*

ONLINE RESOURCES □ Page 13

DOCKET

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 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 jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267 at least 48 hours in advance.

City Council Action

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

On **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 **Resolution 2021-23**, the City 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 Sorenson, Aresma Hailemariam, Leul Wondwosen, Noel 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.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Applications Accepted Through September 30

The City Council welcomes residents with all different types of experience and knowledge and seeks diverse members to represent our community. Your experience living in Takoma Park and interacting with our community on a daily basis and/or working in your chosen profession can give you what you need to be a part of a board or committee.

New this year: Members will receive \$40 per meeting attended. Additional information and a link to the application form can be found online at bit.ly/tkpk-committees.

City boards and committees are appointed by and report to the City Council and focus on a particular priority area. Applications are now being accepted for the following:

Arts & Humanities Committee focuses on matters relating to the arts and encourages the appreciation and participation of City residents in the arts and humanities.

Emergency Preparedness Committee assists in City planning and preparations for emergency operations and engages residents in how to plan, prepare and recover from emergencies.

Grants Review Committee reviews and recommends grant applications for the Community "Quality of Life" Grants awarded annually to nonprofits and business associations that serve City residents by providing greater access and opportunities for participation in the arts and sciences.

Green Team supports City efforts to achieve Sustainable Maryland certification, which in turn helps the City Council to meet its environmental goals and priorities.

Recreation Committee concentrates on serving the varied recreation needs of our residents, emphasizing youth, seniors, and diverse resident backgrounds, on uses of City facilities, and on a wider range of related community needs such as health, leisure, education, enrichment programs.

Board of Elections plans and conducts all our City elections in coordination with the City Clerk. The Board also does voter education and outreach in our community, and reviews City election laws and

procedures after an election to recommend changes as needed.

Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) represents the interest of tenants and landlords and hears cases in matters affecting rental housing in Takoma Park.

Ethics Commission certifies compliance with state and city ethics requirements, hears complaints on potential City ethics violations, and advises on how the City ethics law applies to covered individuals.

Tree Commission hears appeals of City tree permit decisions in keeping with the City's goal to preserve, protect and promote our community's urban forest.

Applications must be received by September 30. Questions? Contact Jessie Carpenter at jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267.



Important City Department Phone Numbers

City Information - 301-891-7100

City Clerk - 301-891-7267

City Manager - 301-891-7229

Communications - 301-891-7236

Finance - 301-891-7212

Housing & Community
Development - 301-891-7119

Library - 301-891-7259

Neighborhood Services
301-891-7113

Police - 301-270-1100

Emergency - 911

Public Works - 301-891-7633

Recreation/Facilities Rental
301-891-7290



Credit: Henning Füller

Loyalty Bookstore is located at 823 Ellsworth Drive in Silver Spring.

BOOKS

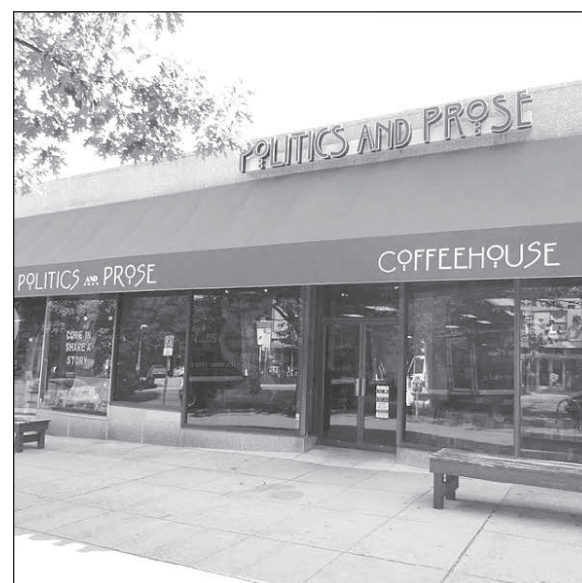
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If you're interested in pre-ordering Rumbaugh's latest book, visit www.FairDaysPlay.com.

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 Abiké-Iyimidé 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).



Credit: Henning Füller

Politics and Prose has locations all around the D.C. area.

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 to 20% discounts for Politics and Prose members. For a full list of upcoming virtual activities, visit www.politics-prose.com.

CHILD CARE

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after school recreational activities for children enrolled in Kindergarten through Fifth grade. Through structured, socially distanced activities and free choice of activities, there are opportunities for socializing, unwinding, and releasing energy, as well as time for doing homework.

While it is great that our facilities have reopened to the public, we are encouraging everyone to remain cautious as media outlets have been reporting that the number of COVID-19 cases are on the rise again. With our child care programs back in our facilities, it is extremely important to work together to keep everyone in the community safe. In order to do this we must communicate and/or stay home in

any instance of feeling sick (headache, chills, flu like symptoms, fever, etc) immediately.

To keep our patrons safe, our staff are continuously watching for updated guidelines from MSDE (Maryland State Department of Education, Office of Child Care). Some of the precautions we are taking are; taking temperatures, maintaining 6 ft distance while inside, requiring masks in the building at all times except when eating/drinking, encouraging hand washing and sanitizing often throughout the day and sanitizing rooms with an electrostatic fogger on a rotating schedule.

Let's work together to make our reopening a great experience for everyone. We appreciate all the support from our community!



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Apryl Motley

Assistant: Sean Gossard

www.takomaparkmd.gov

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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 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—



BUILDING COMMUNITY

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 of when your request will be delivered, and you will receive a call from 240-856-0255 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 Cliff. 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 preserves 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 in-



Performers in the 2021 Folk Festival

Tom Prasada-Rao	Bluegrass
The Bush League	Maritime Voices
The ULiners	DC Labor Chorus
Jelly Roll Mortals	Christian Alfonso
Seth Kibel & The Kleztet	The Bog Band
Rumisonko	Alex Alivi
Ukes On The Move	Ethiopian New Year Celebration
Trio Sefardi	Tornado Rose
Juels Bland	Mara Yaffee
Susan Rowe	Tabi Terusiak
Bilgewater	Woodgrove

person 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.

2021 Takoma Park Folk Festival The Musical Program By The Numbers

09-12-21	The date: Get your watch party together for this exciting event.
4 to 9	The time: Happy hour right through dinner. Food + Music = Total Fun!
40+	The age: The first Festival was in 1978.
21	The program: Twenty-one acts will perform in a variety of styles
10	The enjoyment: Ten hours of wonderful music
2	The suspense: Two live-streamed programs, where anything can happen!
1	The access: One Facebook Page. www.facebook.com/takomaparkfolkfestival
0	The price: Zero cost of admission. However, donations (www.tpff.org/donate) are always gladly accepted.

#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 lilianebloom.com to see more of her work.



Mid Autumn banner by Rockville artist Liliane Blom

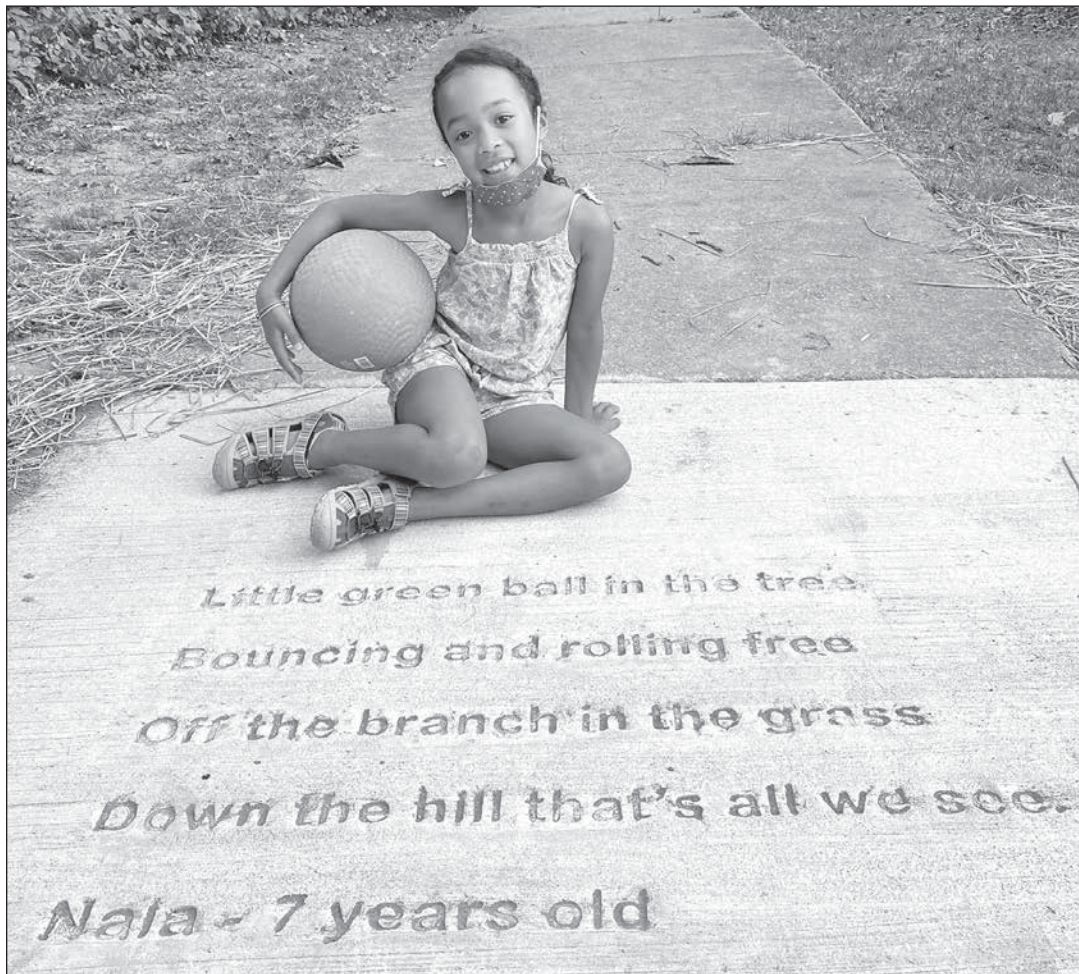
Free Arts Events Return to the Takoma Park Community Center

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/arts.



Nala Miller sitting by her poem

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



Richard Weil with his poem

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.

RECREATION



Virtual class links can be found at
takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc.

Indoor & Outdoor classes starting this month!

TOTS

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
Saturdays, 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 time.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
4-8 years
Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
September 15-November 20
Resident: \$65 / Non-resident: \$75

YOUTH

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Takoma 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 takomachess@gmail.com. (No meetings on 10/10, 10/31, 11/28)



Heffner Park Community Center
42 Oswego Avenue
Grades: K-8
Saturdays, 1:45-3:30 p.m.
September 12-December 19
Free

EXTENDED CARE

School Year 2021-2022
Limited spaces available;
select waiting list if full.

If you had a great summer with us, we encourage you to register your children for our childcare programs during the school year. Morning and Afternoon Addition are held at the Takoma Park Community Center and Before the Bell & After the Bell are held at the Takoma Park Recreation Center. Our emphasis is on providing fun, leisure and recreation programs. There is a 10% deposit due at the time of registration. The remaining balance will be divided into monthly payments beginning September 1. Registration is already open, limited spaces remaining.

Before & After the Bell Childcare
This is our before and after school program at the Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Ave); providing a safe environment for children grades K-5. The children will engage in daily indoor/outdoor group activities and holiday-based events. Each afternoon kids will receive a snack, have a time to complete homework, and enjoy arts and crafts, sports, board games, plays, free play and more! Transportation will not be provided through TPRD, please contact MCPS Transportation 301-840-8130 to change your bus route to (New Hampshire Towers) and staff will escort them to and from the bus stop.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Grades: K-5
MCPS School Year
Before the Bell: 7-9 a.m.
\$1,500
After the Bell: 4-6:30 p.m.
\$2,300

Morning & Afternoon Addition

This is our before and after school program at the Takoma Park Community Center (7500 Maple Ave). Children will have time to work on homework assignments, games/activities or prepare for their day at school. Each afternoon kids will receive a snack. Staff will be available to escort participants to and from Takoma Park Elementary School and Piney Branch Elementary School.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades K-5
MCPS School Year
Morning Addition: 7-9 a.m.
Resident: \$1,500 / Non-resident: \$1,800
Afternoon Addition: 4-6:30 p.m.
Resident: \$2,300 / Non-resident: \$2,800

DANCE

Creative Movement

Students will learn the importance of creative movement and choreographic tools to create their own dance. Students will participate in routine warmups and stretches. Students will participate in student lead performances.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
6-13 years
Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
September 21-November 9
Resident: \$65 / Non-resident: \$75

Hip Hop Dance

Join this introductory Hip Hop Dance Class and have some fun! Students will explore various hip-hop styles, learn the importance of Hip Hop and choreographic tools to create their own dance and execute a short choreography. Students will participate in student lead performances.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
6-13 years
Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 pm
September 9-October 28
Resident: \$65 / Non-resident: \$75

Jazz Dance

Jazz Dance is a structured dance class that challenges the mind by mesmerizing patterns, sequences, and basic Jazz Dance steps. Students will increase awareness of fluidity in movement, shape, and body alignment.

Virtual
6-13 years
Thursdays, 6-7 p.m.
September 14-November 2
Free



Pre-Ballet

Pre-Ballet for ages 9-12 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 time.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
9-12 years
Saturdays, 12:30-1:15 p.m.
September 15-November 20
Resident: \$65 / Non-resident: \$75

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. Class will be held at the Takoma Park Middle School Green House.

Instructor: Carla Perlo
Takoma Park Middle School
7611 Piney Branch Road
Green House
6-10 years
Thursdays, 4:15-5:30 p.m.
September 23-October 28
Resident: \$20 / Non-Resident: \$30

SPORTS

Basketball Skills

This class will teach the fundamentals of the sport. Good Sportsmanship will be emphasized. Participants will be provided with excellent coaching.



You will learn proper dribbling, shooting and defensive techniques. Please contact vincentc@takomaparkmd.gov for more information. All skill levels are welcome, and registration is required.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
6-12 years
7 Week Sessions
Saturdays, 10:15-11:15 a.m.
September 11-October 23
\$80

TEENS

ART

Art In The Park

Have fun drawing with black and white and colored drawing materials outside in two different parks (Ed Wilhelm Field & The Plaza at Old Philadelphia Avenue and Maple Avenue). Subjects will include deep space and close up landscape elements, botanical drawings and floral studies. Beginning students are welcome. The focus of the class is appropriate for students interested in developing a sketchbook for entry into the Visual Arts Center at Albert Einstein High School. A list of optional drawing material will be sent to registered students. Students are welcome to draw with a pencil eraser or sketch paper sketchbook. This class is weather dependent. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman

Ed Wilhelm Field
2 Darwin Avenue
11-15 years
Tuesdays, 3:30-5 p.m.
September 23-October 28
Resident: \$110 / Non-Resident: \$130

DRAMA

Dungeons & Dragons

They creep through the twilight, quiet as shadows muttering a language long forgotten, a language only spoken by ghosts. Use your imagination and storytelling ability in this classic fantasy role-playing game. Roll dice to cast spells and battle monsters. Creativity and cooperation help the group "survive."

Instructor: Dave Burbank
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Auditorium
12-18 years
Thursdays, 4-6 p.m.
September 9-October 7
(No class: 9/16)
Resident: \$55 / Non-resident: \$65

FITNESS

Capoeira for Teens (Outdoor Class)

Capoeira is a Brazilian dance mixed with martial arts, acrobatics, and music. Through this class students will focus on learning basic corporal techniques of Capoeira including, acrobatics, defense, and attack movements. Students will also learn the rhythms and songs necessary for Capoeira, including, drums, tambourine, and other native Brazilian instruments.

Takoma Park Community Center
Outdoor Basketball Court
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades: 6-12
Mondays, 3:45-4:45 p.m.
September 13-November 15
Resident: Free / Non-resident: \$10

Commit 2 B Fit (Outdoor Class)

Get your yoga mat and water bottles and join us on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. at Ed Wilhelm Field for a fun and energized session to work out and get fit. Limited spaces available, registration required.

Takoma Park Community Center
Ed Wilhelm Field
2 Darwin Avenue
Grades: 6-12
Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
September 18-October 23
Free



HousingMatters

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | 301-891-7119 | HOUSING@TAKOMAPARKMD.GOV

FALL
2021



Takoma Park's Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan Sets the Stage for *New Housing Partnerships and Opportunities*

Following several years of planning and research, the City Council approved the adoption of the Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan. Adopted in October 2019, the plan is designed to:

- **Preserve existing businesses and affordable housing in Takoma Park, including in revitalizing areas**
- **Produce more housing and opportunities for businesses to start and grow across the income spectrum and in neighborhoods across the City to meet the diverse housing and economic needs**
- **Protect renters, homeowners, and local businesses from discrimination and displacement; and protect our environment from destruction.**

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.

COVID-19 Financial Assistance for Tenants and Homeowners

Don't Wait to Get Help!

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 com-

pleted 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.



Habitat Creates First Homes in Downcounty

Thanks to City Partnership

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.”



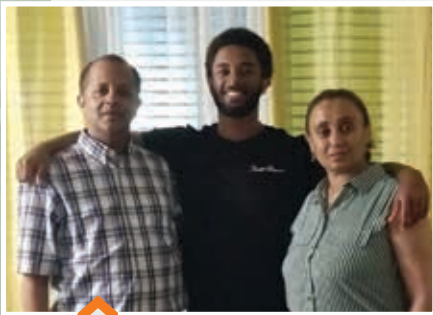
Nafkote Dana, her three children and her brother, Kirubel, were selected to purchase the three bedroom, two bath home at Garland Ave.

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.”



Surafel and Adanech Zewdie and their youngest son will purchase a home in Takoma Park thanks to Habitat.



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 homeownership 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.

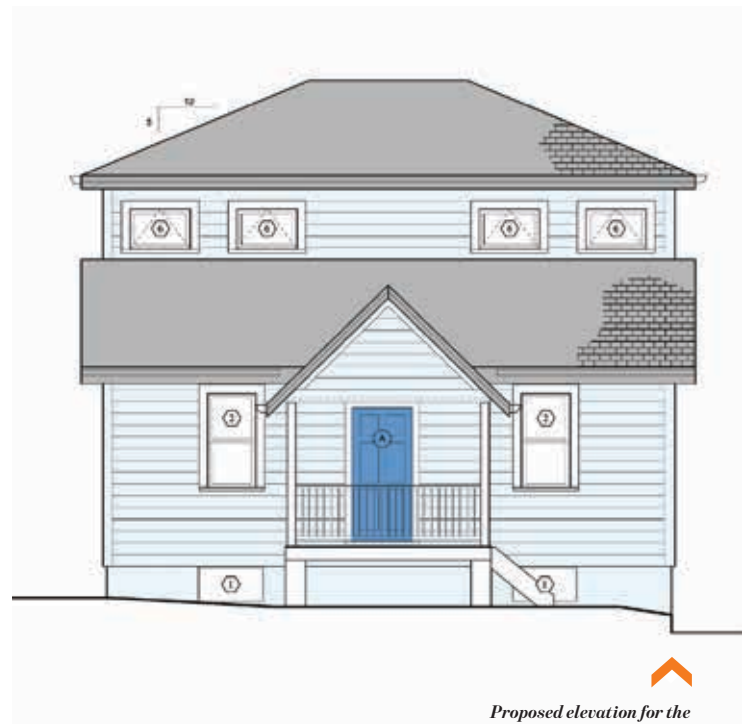
The development of the Lincoln Avenue property is financed through a \$200,000 loan from the City's Housing Reserve Fund, which was adopted by ordinance of the city council on March 17, 2021. In addition, the home's proximity to the new Purple Line light rail qualified the project for an additional grant 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.



Proposed elevation for the
HIP Project House on Lincoln Ave.

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 so 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/hfhmmmtakomapark> 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



Homeownership Possible Thanks to City's HOME STRETCH DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE

The Home Stretch Down Payment Assistance Program provides funding for eligible first-time homebuyers in Takoma Park. Annually, the City provides funding for forgivable loans of \$10,000 for income-eligible individuals and families living in or relocating to Takoma Park, helping families build generational wealth through homeownership. Since its inception, the program has helped nine first-time homebuyers achieve homeownership.

Sam and Aphra Adkins and their two children were one such family. In January 2020, they closed on their first home on Kansas Avenue in Takoma Park. Sam, a chef, and Aphra, an entrepreneur and designer, used the Home Stretch funds to get to the closing table.

"Without the Home Stretch program, we would not have been able to afford a home," said Aphra. "The process was straightforward, and the team was helpful and encouraging every step of the way. The welcome we received once moving to the neighborhood confirmed that we had made the right decision.

The City of Takoma Park is committed to helping qualified individuals and families achieve homeownership by reducing their financial barriers.

Visit takomaparkmd.gov or email grants@takomaparkmd.gov for more information about this program and to apply.

KEY PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must be first-time homebuyers or not have owned any property in the last five (5) years.
- Applicant must complete a HUD homebuyer education course approved by the City of Takoma Park.
- Applicants must be income-eligible based on household sizes calculated on an adjusted percentage of the Area Median Income (AMI) for Montgomery County, as published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- The property, whether a single-family attached, or detached home, or condominium, must be located in the City of Takoma Park.



Sam and Aphra at the closing table thanks to Home Stretch downpayment assistance



To Date:
**9 HOMES
PURCHASED**
with the assistance of
Home Stretch

Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Law Helps Resident Stay in His Home

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.

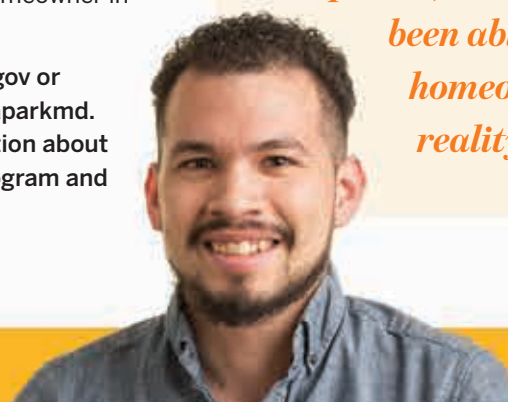
Using both TOPL and Home-stretch, Mr. Andino was able to purchase his condominium. Without the full integration of these two key programs, Mr. Andino might have been displaced from his rental home. Now, due to The Home Stretch Program and TOPL, he is a proud homeowner in Takoma Park.

Visit takomaparkmd.gov or email grants@takomaparkmd.gov for more information about the Home Stretch Program and to apply.

“

The Home Stretch Program and Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Law allowed me to purchase the condo I'd been renting. Without these two key pieces of the puzzle, I wouldn't have been able to make homeownership a reality.”

— Edwin



RECREATION



Virtual class links can be found at
takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc.

Indoor & Outdoor classes starting this month!

RECREATION

■ From page 6

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 cultural awareness.

Takoma Park Community Center
Outdoor Basketball Court
7500 Maple Avenue

Grades: 6–12

Wednesdays, 3:45–4:45 p.m.

September 15–November 17

Resident: Free / Non-resident: \$10

SOCIAL

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
7315 New Hampshire Avenue

Grades 6–12

Fridays, 6–8 p.m.

September 10 & October 8

Free with membership

Teen Talk Tuesdays

Join Ms. Leicia for Teen Talk Tuesdays! Grab your seats and we'll bring the "tea"! Let's talk about fashion, fads, questions, advice, current events, etc. You name it! Some weeks we will have experts or special guests join in on the conversations. For more information, please contact Leicia Monfort at leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov.

Takoma Park Community Center

Teen Lounge

7500 Maple Avenue

Grades 6–12

Tuesdays, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

September 14–December 21

Free with membership

ADULT

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

Saturdays, 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 still life, landscape 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. Fetting knives and other tools with sharp edges or points such as skewers 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.

Takoma Park Community Center

7500 Maple Avenue

Art Studio

16 & older

Wednesdays, 10–11:30 a.m.

September 24–October 29

Resident: \$100 / Non-Resident: \$120

Material Fee: \$35

FITNESS

ReVamp Fit Home Workout

Get your heart rate up and your stress levels down. Start slow and build up. People of all fitness levels can do this type of workout. It can be done anywhere as long as you have space available to move around. Don't do anything your doctor hasn't authorized you to do.

Virtual

18 & older

Wednesdays, 10–11 a.m.

September 8–December 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

Virtual

16 & older

New videos uploaded each Wednesday

Free



Sunday Morning Stroll Walking Club

The overall purpose of this program is to develop and enhance a healthy lifestyle by engaging in walking, breathing, stretching and various physical movements in an outdoor setting. Whether you want to lose weight, increase your activity, lower your stress, or just enjoy time outside join us for weekly wellness walks in Sligo Creek Park. These low-intensity walks will include a variety of activities such as:

- Focusing on breath and the senses while walking in silence
- Time to reflect on your wellness goals and practical steps you can take
- Short tips to enhance everyday wellness
- Light stretching to wake our bodies and prepare for the walk
- Building social connections and support for wellness

Outside, Meet at corner of Maple Avenue & Sligo Parkway

16 & older

Sundays, 9–10 a.m.

September 12–December 19

Free

Total Body Blast

Are you ready to have a blast, get your body in shape and toned?

Grab your mat and weights and join

KJ Total Fitness for an all-around workout tailored for beginners to intermediate exercisers. Please work at your own pace and make modifications as necessary. Each class workout will consist of warm-up, upper body toning, lower body toning, core strengthening, and stretch.

*Recommended equipment: sneakers, floor mat, handheld weights, training gloves, towel, water

Virtual

16 & older

Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.

Free



Iyengar Yoga for Beginners

This class will introduce you to Yoga as taught by the Iyengar Method. This method opens the practice of yoga for everyone. The use of props and a step-by-step approach teaches alignment and brings strength and flexibility. The basic postures are introduced, and awareness is created in the whole body. As awareness of every part of the body is felt, energy is generated, and the breath is engaged. The aim is to bring into alignment the different parts

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 Year Before & After Care Programs at our Community Center. Here is a little bit about her!



Q: 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.

Q: 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.

Q: 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.

Q&A □ Page 13

SPECIAL EVENTS

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 Piney 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 water. Due to limited parking, walking is encouraged. COVID-19 protocols will be followed. Visit our website takomaparkmd.gov/recreation to vote on the movie. For additional 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 Philadelphia 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.

RECREATION □ Page 13

LIBRARY



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 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 Chicanx. 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/Sonadores*. Duncan Tonatuih’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 García Esquivel, because who doesn’t love a three-minute dance party?

YA books: Isabel Ibañez channels her Bolivian American heritage in her novel *Woven in Moonlight* about a young woman named Ximena’s 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 Kathy Camper and Raúl the Third is super fun for the elementary and middle grades



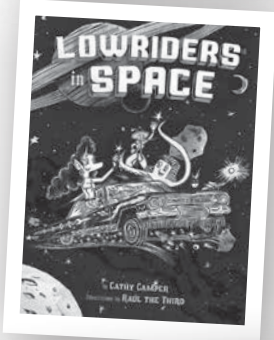
Jessica Jones

readers. Tony Medina’s YA graphic novel *I Am Alfonso Jones* spotlights an Afrolatino protagonist who becomes a victim of police violence. *Angola Janga* by Marcelo D’saete 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 Haciendo 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? Señora Geiza 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.



Expanded hours! Now that the Community Center is fully open, the Library has expanded its hours, too. Our new hours are Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Friday through Sunday noon – 6 p.m. The Computer Center will open at noon each day and close at the same time as the Library.

CALENDAR

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 password, 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 our programs, go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents.

Q Kids Group. On Saturday, September 18, Children’s librarian Kati Nolfi will be talking about LGBTQ+ books at Main Street Pearl’s Q Kids Group from 2 to 4pm. Main Street Pearl is located at 7050 Carroll Ave. The Q Kids meetings are hang-out sessions for queer and queer-allied kids, on the first and third Saturdays of each month at Main Street Pearl. You will find games, free popcorn and lemonade, and new friends!

SummerQuest wrap-up party! We will gather in the Children’s Room at the Library, on Saturday September 18 at 11 a.m., to check in and share the adventures and discoveries we experienced over the summer. Prizes, snacks, stories, and fun!

Zoom Circle Time: Join Ms. Kati every Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. for an online Circle Time via Zoom! To

participate, go to <https://zoom.us>. Click on “Join a Meeting.” Then put in this Meeting ID: 995-4901-8825 and Meeting Password: 178851. At Circle Time, we sing songs, have fun with fingerplays and rhymes, and do lots of dancing and movement exercises. We read one book in the middle of the program.

Zoom Comics Jam: Once a month, generally on the second Wednesday at 4 p.m. The next date is September 8. 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. 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.

Yoga Storytime

Join Ms. Kati on most Saturdays starting September 11 at 10 a.m. outside the Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Ave.) for a 30-minute Yoga Storytime for 2 and up. Supervised younger siblings are welcome. You are welcome to bring a bottle of water, a towel (completely optional; to put your mat on top and keep it dry and clean) and yoga mat if you want. There are extra mats available if you need one. Masks are optional for outdoor activities. We do yoga, read a story, enjoy some bubbles, and get a craft-to-go bag. We cancel for bad weather (heat, rain, cold) (no class on Oct. 23 & Oct. 30).

Listen to This!

By Kati Nolfi, Children’s Librarian

Since librarians should be media mentors, I hope I can put my addiction to good use in a monthly podcast recommendation column. Enjoy!

Aaack Cast by Jamie Loftus from iHeartRadio

You think you don’t want to listen to a podcast about Cathy comics, but you are wrong, so wrong.

Jamie Loftus, Millennial writer, actor, and stand-up, hosts this breezy, yet thorough deep dive on Cathy

Guisewite (with interviews) and her work and the historical context for the strip that ran from 1976-2010 (with a brief Instagram appearance last year.)

Did you know that Guisewite didn’t want to name her main character and strip after herself? That she was friends with Charles Schulz? You’ll learn stuff, yes. The pod takes detours both funny and dark into Boomer criticism and diet culture. But most importantly, it’s filtered through Loftus’s own vulner-



PODCAST

ability, curiosity, and frustration and her cast of comics who perform the comics throughout each episode. Never again will you mock Cathy with a sarcastic, “Chocolate, chocolate, chocolate! Aaack!”

Q&A

■ From page 11

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

■ From page 1

lets you browse or search by topic or look at *National Geographic Kids* magazine.

- *Everything National Geographic* covers including animals, the environment, history, cultures, places, science, and technology, and much more. There are videos, books, and magazines.



- *Britannica Library for Children* offers reliable information on almost any subject. There are articles, videos, images, and more.
- *World Book Kids* includes articles on a variety of topics, pictures, 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:



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 cita-

tion 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.



Explora 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.



Enciclopedia 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.

RECREATION

■ From page 11

of the body to associate the breath and mind and release tension and stress. Instructor: Tehseen Chettri
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
18 & older
Wednesdays, 6–7 p.m.
September 8-December 15
Resident: \$180 / Non-Resident: \$210
Drop-In: \$15

Zumba with Griselda

Zumba class will be 45 minutes to an hour long (depending on the need). Participants will engage in a total body workout, combining cardio, muscle conditioning, balance, and flexibility through Latin music. Zumba class will include a mix of low-intensity and high-intensity movements, but participants can modify as necessary. The judgment-free Zumba class is designed to bring communities together and form a support group to reach each participant's fitness goal.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
16 & older
Saturdays, 10:15–11:15 a.m.
September 11-December 18
Resident: \$65 / Non-Resident: \$75

MULTIMEDIA

It's Time to Save, Restore & Share your Family Photos

Do you know how many photos you have on your smartphone? Can you locate them? This class will teach you how to organize, store, protect, enhance, and use the hundreds, possibly thousands of photographs on your computer, tablet, and smartphone. Students will be introduced to programs that make it easier to work with digital photos. This includes Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom. You will be able to use these programs on the iMac computers in the Multi-Media Center. We will explore the use of free programs, such as GIMP. Students will learn how to scan photos, especially old and damaged family photos, for the purpose of retouching and restoring. It is recommended that students have an external memory drive of at least three gigabytes to store photos used in the class. The benefit of larger external drives will be reviewed. If you work with a PC computer, it will be possible to format your external drive for both Mac and PC. Written material will be provided. It is anticipated that extra computer time in the Media Center, with the instructor, will be available each week.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Multi Media Lab

18 & older
Tuesday, 7–9 p.m.
September 21-November 9
Resident: \$25 / Non-resident: \$35

Voice Overs...Now is your time

In what could be the most enlightening two hours you've ever spent, this class will show you how you can actually begin using your speaking voice for commercials, films, videos, and more. Most people go about it the wrong way. In this introductory class, you will learn about a unique, outside the box way to break into this creative, fulfilling, and potentially lucrative industry. Voice-overs can be managed on your own terms, on your own turf, in your own time, and with minimal overhead! Whether you choose to pursue voice-overs part-time or full-time, this could be the game changer you've been looking for.
Instructor: Nicole Porch
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Azalea Room
18 & older
One Day Workshop
Monday, 7–9 p.m.
October 18
Free

55+

DROP-IN

Bingo

Welcome back! Come try your luck and win a prize! This is drop-in, no registration required. Host: Paula Lisowski
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Senior Room
55 & up
Tuesdays, 12–2 p.m.
September 28
Free

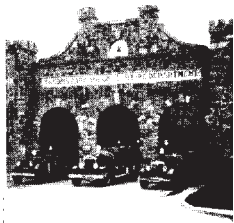
FITNESS

Belly Dancing

In this easy-to-follow introductory class we'll explore the foundational techniques of Middle Eastern belly dance known as "raqs sharqi" and learn the gentle movements of hip circles, shimmies, figure eights and more. Great dance exercise. Instructor: Joan Atkinson, Elena Faye Dance.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
55 & up
7 Week Session
Thursdays, 11 a.m. –12 p.m.
September 9-October 28
(No class 9/23)
\$5



AT YOUR SERVICE



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

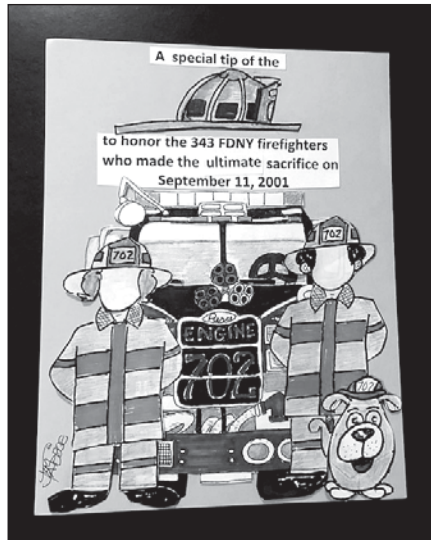
By Jim Jarboe

Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of September 6, 2021, 38 people have died in fires compared to 34 in 2020.

Hot vehicle deaths

As of September 6, 2021, 19 children have died in hot vehicles across the country. Grand total to 902 since 1998. Don't let a tragedy happen, that you could have prevented. Make sure you check the back seat, and everyone goes with you. Also, lock it!



Safety message

Have you checked your smoke alarms lately? It's your first line of defense in the event of a fire in your home. They need to be tested monthly. Be Safe! Do It for your safety and your family!

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 an emergency.

This year's theme Prepare to Protect has information in four key areas:

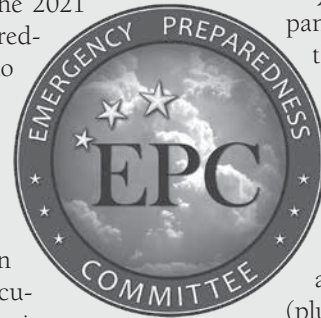
1. Make a plan.
2. Build a kit.
3. Prepare for disasters.
4. Teach youth about preparedness.

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 mak-

ing 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://do1thing.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 tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov. Join us once a month for "Dear Bea(trice) Prepared" on Talk of Takoma WOWD/LP 94.3FM.



Passport Services

Passport services are available on first come, first served basis Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center on the second floor. Takoma Park staff encourage calling the City's main phone number at 301-891-7100 and checking if the office is open before departing for the Community Center for passport services.

For additional information, visit takomaparkmd.gov/services/passports.



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:

ኮታቸ ያለውን ደህን አዲ ደረጃ ላይ መጽሔቶች አርቢዎ ራስዎ ናቸው በሌሎች ቋንቋዎች በመመረቅ ላይ ማንበብ ይቻላል ትርጉሙን በመጠቀም በ ታክማ ከተማ ውስጥ ያለውን ባህሪ ማግኘት ይቻላል፡፡ ጠቀስኪያን በሰ አጽሎት አገኝቶ ላይ ይመልከቱ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥንግ ላይ ታስባለች የአሰሳ አዋጊን ይምረጡና ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልቋይ ሳጥን፡፡

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/alert)
- **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 Conversation: Jose Monge & Kathleen O'Toole

In 2019, Takoma Arts partnered with *Alta Hora de la Noche* to present an *Encuentro Poético*. Vladimir (Jose) Monge, one of the founders of the Colectivo Literario, was also featured in a Third Thursday Reading “Poetry of Migration and the Immigrant Experience.” Takoma Park Poet Laureate Kathleen O'Toole spoke with him in May 2021. The following is a condensed version of their conversation.

O'Toole: Please tell me a bit about your own poetry journey.

Monge: I was a student leader at the University of El Salvador during the Civil War in 1989. The University was seen as a point of resistance; the military intervened and a lot of people were imprisoned. I was arrested for a few months (with all that happens in a country that does not respect human rights), then released with no charges and had to leave the country. With help from the Council of Central American Universities I was able to finish my studies in Costa Rica. It was during my time in Costa Rica, at age 22, I wrote my first poems out of these experiences. Some of them appear in my first book *Pasajeros in El Tiempo*. My other published collection is *Voces y Huellas*, (also with poems about the political process in El Salvador), and my poems have appeared in several anthologies of Hispanic poets. My next book “*Antes que llore esta ciudad*” (before this city cries) will be published in Spanish probably by early 2022.



O'Toole: How has your work with labor unions here in the DC area found its way into your work?

Monge: Being a part of the labor movement in the US gave me another door to look at social issues. Also, a chance to make an impact. Getting to know the conditions of low wage workers also gave me a lot of motivation to write, like the poem “5,000 Square Feet” which deals with the standard of the cleaning industry for how much a worker is expected to clean in an hour, with the worker sending remittances back to a country where people have no idea what it takes to send this money.



O'Toole: What was the genesis of the Colectivo Literario you helped organize?

Monge: Some of us were a part of a group called “*paraesolapalabra*” in the early 2000's, with quarterly events at the Folger Shakespeare Library. Then in 2010 we formed the Colectivo *Alta Hora de la Noche*, named for a well-known poem of the Salvadoran poet Roque Dalton. For the first three years it was all Salvadorans, then we decided to include anyone writing in Spanish. For several years, we hosted an annual international gathering of poets (Salvadoran, Bolivian, Argentinian, Dominican, Colombian, Cuban). We met in

peoples' houses, or in cafes. In 2017 we met Jeannette Noltinius, who founded *Casa de la Cultura* and was working with the help of the Salvadoran Consulate to promote local arts. We created *La Peña Cultural de los Viernes*, as a monthly gathering (at the consulate in Silver Spring) which gave poetry the dignity that it deserves, and the artists too. In three years with no official budget, we hosted 26 peñas, and not only did poets, musicians and other writers come, but we had a full house every month – “Friends of the Colectivo” provided food and drink. The old South American saying “Meet me at the Peña” (at the boulder, a meeting place) took on a new life. With the pandemic the monthly *Peña Cultural* has continued online. *La Peña* showed us it is possible to have the well-seasoned poets, amateurs and the public from diverse backgrounds together to enjoy the spoken word, the arts and a sense of belonging in the community.

O'Toole: And now you've put out an anthology....

Monge: *Voces en la Madrugada*, was released this spring, but we started working on it before the pandemic. Members of the Colectivo are at different levels in the creative process; our main criteria was to be inclusive. Professor Consuelo Hernandez of American University who wrote the introduction, described the poems as “coming from the trenches of poetry” and demonstrating “...a legacy that immigrants are building in this nation.”



Takoma Park
MINOR MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT

How do you envision the future of the Washington Adventist Hospital Campus and surrounding areas?

Take a short questionnaire! Responda nuestro breve cuestionario!

አጭር ጥናት ይውሰዱ Répondez à un court questionnaire !

Go to surveymonkey.com/r/takoma-park-mma or use the QR code below.



Get involved:

Visit our webpage, sign up for our eLetter or schedule time with staff: montgomeryplanning.org/takomapark

Contact us:

Montgomery Planning

John Marcolin, Project Manager
John.marcolin@montgomeryplanning.org

Melissa Williams, Community Engagement Planner
Melissa.Williams@montgomeryplanning.org

City of Takoma Park

Rosalind Grigsby, Community Development Manager
rosalindg@takomaparkmd.gov

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



Wolfgang Johannes Mergner

heart muscle, a breakthrough in regenerative medicine.

In the late 80s, they made their home 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, biking 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 Christoph, his daughter-in-law Julia and beloved grandchildren Sophie, Stella, L, Iona, and Joy. Those who knew him well were lucky to have known and loved such a thoughtful and caring man.

September 2021 Calendar

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

Deadline for the October issue is September 17, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning September 30. To submit calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov.

All City facilities fully reopened to the public on August 23.

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

STAY ACTIVE

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



Enhance Your Fitness
Tuesdays, 8:45–9:45 a.m.
55 & up

Classic Foundational Fitness and Training
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10–11 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

SHARE IDEAS

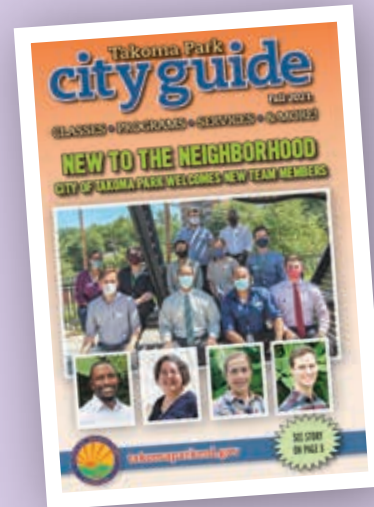
Attend City Council meetings!

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

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



For a full listing of Recreation offerings, see the Fall City Guide in this issue of the Newsletter!

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.



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

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

"It is a happy talent to know how to play"
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Takoma Park Play Day

Saturday, September 25th, 2021
10am - 2pm
Volunteers 8am - 4pm

Takoma Park Middle School
7611 Piney Branch Road, Silver Spring MD

Featuring:
Granny and the Boys
Rockville Swing Band
Wendy Lanxner Kids Band
Takoma Park Community Band

Free play event for all ages!

Follow us on Social Media
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Contact us: info@letsplayamerica.org | www.letsplayamerica.org