



WHAT'S NEW?

Dance Exchange Season Kick-Off
p. 4

City Council Accepting Applications for Committees
p. 2

Arts Events Return
p. 5

Books to Go Continues
p. 9

Holiday for City Staff
Labor Day,
Monday, Sept. 6

Trash/Recycling Collection
Labor Day, Sept. 6
Yard waste collection canceled.
Summer Collection Hours: With temperatures higher, the City's collection services have shifted to summer hours. Collection for trash, recycling and food waste now begin at 6:00 am. Please put your items out for collection the night before.

Look for this icon throughout this issue
See page 10

A Man on a Mission: Q&A with Incoming City Manager Jamal Fox



While he did not officially begin work until Aug. 2, new Takoma Park City Manager Jamal Fox was in town for the swearing in of new police officers (Jun. 25) and enjoying the Summer Mercado (Jun. 26.)



TP News caught up with incoming City Manager Jamal Fox just a few weeks before his first official day on the job.

Fox comes to Takoma Park from Camas, Washington, where he served as the City Administrator. Some residents may have already seen him around town. This former Greensboro City Councilmember and adjunct professor in political science at North Carolina A&T State University (his alma mater) looks forward to being an active member of the community and region.

Fox and his wife, Jaimee, have one son, Jamal Jr., who is two years old and a new daughter, Jordynn, born on July 25. Fox is a proud father, husband, and member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.

Here's more on his motivation for coming to Takoma Park and his impressions of the City and the work that lies ahead for him, staff, and the City Council.

TP News: Why Takoma Park? What appealed to you about coming to the City to begin the next chapter of your career?

Fox: For me, it was a no brainer. A lot of local professionals reached out to see if I was interested in coming back to the east coast. I have family in the area. I always wanted to raise my family on the east coast. It was one of those opportunities that you couldn't turn down. The proximity to D.C. and other assets of the area are unmatched. I couldn't have chosen a better community in which to raise my family.

Q&A □ Page 3

What's New? Takoma Park Safe Routes to School 2021-2022 Year in Preview

Over the past year and a half, many Takoma Park residents turned to walking and bike riding to cope with stress, get exercise and enjoy nature. Walking and riding a bike to school can be your way of keeping the momentum going. Choose the low stress, healthy and fun way to get to school. Walk or ride your bike! Check out all the ways Safe Routes to School helps keep your students safe while walking and biking to school:

- **Safe Routes to School Map.** A detailed map featuring sidewalks and crosswalks surrounding the schools to help parents choose the best route



SAFE ROUTES □ Page 3

Walk to School Day 2018-2019

Information and Resources: Covid19
takomaparkmd.gov

Questions, Comments and Suggestions
askus@takomaparkmd.gov

#TogetherTKPK

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

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

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Inside	Takoma Park Folk Festival Page 3	Back Outside Again Page 7	FY22 Community Quality of Life Grantees Announced Page 9	Backyard Jam Sessions Page 11
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DOCKET

Official City Government Meetings

REMOTE/VIRTUAL MEETINGS CONTINUE

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

COMMENTING AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Individuals interested in commenting live during City Council meetings must sign up by 5:00 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. 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.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will be on recess through Tuesday, September 7. The first City Council meeting in September will be on Wednesday, September 8.

CITY BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, August 12, 7 p.m.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 26, 7 p.m.

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 10, 7:30 p.m.

PARKING MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

Thursday, August 19, 7:30 p.m.

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, August 16, 7 p.m.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 19, 7 p.m.

TREE COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, August 10, 7 p.m.

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

ADA NOTICE

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone with a disability who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations at a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing is invited to contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at 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.

The Council approved submission of two grant applications to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development by resolution on **June 16**. **Resolution 2021-14** approved submitting the application for financial assistance to conduct site preparation work for the Takoma Park Recreation Center site totaling \$300,000. **Resolution 2021-15** approved the application for financial assistance to conduct a project feasibility study for the Washington-McLaughlin senior housing site in an amount not to exceed \$350,000. By **Ordinance 2021-30**, the City Council approved a contract in the amount of \$75,000 with New Ecology for energy efficiency services in multifamily buildings. **Ordinance 2021-31**, an emergency ordinance, continues the suspension of certain provisions of the Takoma Park Code restricting the posting of signs. The suspension will continue until June 30, 2022.

Resolution 2021-16 was adopted by the City Council on **June 23, 2021**. The resolution authorized execution of an employment agreement with Jamal T. Fox as City Manager. Mr. Fox's term as City Manager will begin on August 2, 2021. **Resolution 2021-17** designates Jessica Clarke, Deputy City Manager, as resident agent for the City of Takoma Park. **Resolution 2021-18** extended the term of the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force and the terms of its members until presenting its final recommendations to the City Council. (The Task Force presented its final recommendations on July 13.)

Also, on **June 23, 2021**, the City Council adopted **Resolution 2021-19** to recommended disapproval of the Takoma Junction Development Combined Site Plan by the Montgomery County Planning Board. In the resolution, the City Council states the following reasons for the recommendation: 1) The plan has not received approval from the MDOT-SHA for the layby. 2) More work is needed to address the rear facade design in order to have a minimal impact on the residential neighborhood and wooded area behind it and ensure a less intrusive and more

visually appropriate design. 3) The plan does not provide 2700 square feet of public space of the type and quality of that included in the plans that were submitted for development review pursuant to Resolution 2018-41. 4) The plan does not demonstrate adequate public parking for area businesses as stated in Resolution 2018-41. 5) Stormwater treatment does not significantly exceed the 50% requirement specified in Resolution 2018-41.

Finally, on the same evening, the Council approved **Ordinance 2021-32** as an emergency ordinance to enter into a contract with a nonprofit housing organization and use of up to \$270,000 from the Housing Reserve Fund for a housing project at 1202 Holton Lane.

At the City Council meeting on **June 30, 2021**, the City Council adopted **Resolution 2021-20** recognizing retiring City Manager Suzanne Ludlow. Ms. Ludlow's last day with the City was July 1.

On **July 7, 2021**, by adoption of **Resolution 2021-21**, the City Council approved submission of a Maryland Revitalization Grant Application for acquisition funds and architectural fees for 6530 and 6600 New Hampshire Avenue. (Councilmember Smith abstained.) **Resolution 2021-22** was adopted the same evening. With the resolution, the Council strongly recommended approval of the scope of work and boundary area of the Minor Master Plan Amendment by the Montgomery County Planning Board, and requested that the Planning Board consider the following: 1) include Erie Center, the small commercial area at the intersection of Erie and Flower Avenues, in the Boundary Area; 2) include the City of Takoma Park Public Works building complex at 31 Oswego Avenue in the Boundary Area; 3) ensure a robust community engagement process that includes the multi-family units on Maple Avenue; and, 4) conduct community engagement that involves the residents and properties that are outside the Boundary Area but also impacted by the use of and connectivity with the Boundary Area, in particular, nearby residential neighborhoods.



Apply for a Seat on a City Committee

The City Council is taking applications through Sept. 30 for many city boards and committees. Please apply if you would like to take an active role in the community and help make Takoma Park a more livable, environmentally sustainable, equitable community.

Residents serving on these City boards and committees provide an invaluable service to our community. Your voice and perspective matter, as well as your advice and expertise on a wide range of topics, to assist the City Council in its decision-making process.

Boards and committees are important because they:

- Provide the Council with tangible recommendations in key priority areas or fulfill the City's regulatory functions and requirements
- Leverage residents' technical expertise and lived experiences to inform City policies and programs
- Ensure that the Council has regular and timely information to use when considering its priorities or important issues
- Provide an opportunity to engage residents on issues that are important to them as well as enable residents to assist in community education and engagement activities in priority areas.

Most boards and committees meet once a month. Some meet less frequently. Members may need to do a small amount of work outside of meetings to prepare for and continue work in between meetings. Members will receive a stipend of

\$40 per meeting and are eligible to apply for reimbursement for transportation and childcare expenses. If you need assistance with digital access, we may be able to help.

We welcome residents with all different types of experience and knowledge and seek 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.

The Council is currently accepting applications for nine boards and committees, which focus on a wide range of topics and issues:

- Arts & Humanities Committee
- Board of Elections
- Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs
- Emergency Preparedness Committee
- Ethics Commission
- Grants Review Committee
- Green Team
- Recreation Committee
- Tree Commission

You can apply at bit.ly/tkpk-committees. Questions? Contact Jessie Carpenter at jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267.

Q&A

■ From page 1

TP News: Now that you have had the opportunity to spend some time here, what is your initial impression of the City and the community?

Fox: “Takoma Park Strong.” The community is amazing. The love, enthusiasm, and commitment are all there from staff and strategic partners. You can feel the sense of love, care, and community and a sense of family when you drive through the community. It’s contagious. It makes me want to be here. I feel good about the decision to move to the City. I am ready to take it to the next level



Fox, his wife Jaimee, two-year old son, Jamal Jr., and baby sister Jordynn who was born on July 25.

Five Questions for Jamal Fox

1. **What’s on Your Desk Right Now:** City Council Priorities, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) plan and implementation, Reimagining Public Task Force meeting, assessment of the City organization
2. **What You Do in Your “Spare Time”:** Spending time with family, playing board games, talking walks, visiting parks, traveling, bowling, going to movies, still working on golf swing
3. **Biggest/Most Important Lesson You Have Learned:** Integrity is earned, but once you lose it, it’s hard to get back.
4. **Best Advice You Ever Got (and from who):** Remain humble. Never forget your purpose and where you came from. (Various mentors in my life have shared this central theme.)
5. **Last Book You Read:** *My Grandmother’s Hands* by Resmaa Menakem

and write the next chapter of Takoma Park.

As you consider the rest of this year and the year ahead, what have you begun to identify as some of the primary challenges and opportunities facing the City?

Fox: Moving forward with the understanding that the City received over \$17.4 million in federal funds, we need to implement a plan for allocating those funds. I am also focused on further embedding and operationalizing racial equity. I want to look at staffing as well and how we can provide more bandwidth and capacity for staff to do their jobs more efficiently. How can we make work fun again and support them? We don’t have census data back yet, but when we do, we’ll see how much Takoma Park has grown. As the community is growing, is the organization growing with or away from it? How do you balance those priorities? Addressing these kinds of questions

presents both challenges and opportunities.

TP News: Describe your leadership style. What can staff and residents expect?

Fox: I am all about making sure we’re data driven, and we’re being ethical at all times. I also want to make sure we’re having fun and that staff are supported in doing their jobs and have opportunities for being innovative and creative. Grace will need to be extended both ways. There will be times when we will have to agree to disagree. I center equity, community, and people in everything I do. Residents and staff should know that I place the benefit of the community over everything else. My approach to allow the City’s principles and values to guide us in co-creating and co-sharing spaces together. In some cases, we may need to restructure to streamline for effectiveness and efficiency to the benefit of the community

TP News: What elements are critical to building strong communities? In your experience, which strategies have proved successful in bridging gaps that exist in communities?

Fox: It goes back to the basics. I focus on the three C’s for sustained organizational performance and success: Core, Communications, and Culture. We will have listening sessions, so I can be on ground hearing concerns first-hand and building relationships. Relationships matter. We must come together, and it’s OK for that to be uncomfortable sometimes. Diversity of thought thinking outside the box are important in building community. To engage a population as diverse as Takoma Park, it’s about building community and reaching people where they are. My overarching framework is simple: “One City, One Community, One Takoma Park.” You’ll hear me say that a lot.

SAFE ROUTES

■ From page 1

for walking and biking. You can find the map on the city website: takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/planning-and-community-development/safe-routes-to-school/map-your-route.

- **Walk to School Day (WTSD) – October 6, 2021.** This year plan to walk to school on WTSD and every day! Start at the beginning of the school year and celebrate on Walk to School Day. Choose a regular walking schedule (daily, weekly, monthly) and stick to it. You will be glad you did.
- **Cross Safe, Cross Smart – Fall 2021.** This half hour activity is designed to teach students how to cross the street safely; it is appropriate for grades K–2. One half hour session for each class of up to 25 students.
- **Bike Rodeos – Fall 2021.** This one-hour workshop is intended for 3rd to 5th graders. Bikes and helmets are

provided for a hands-on bike safety session for groups of up to 25 students.

- **Takoma Park Safe Routes to School 5K (TKPK5K) – Sunday, May 1, 2022.** It’s never too early to start training for the TKPK5K. This year promises to be better than ever when we return to an in-person event.
- **Bike to School Day – Wednesday, May 4, 2022.** Bike to School Day is the first Wednesday of May. With so many new riders enjoying biking, BTSD promises to be the main event in May. Look for additional bike related Bike Month programming during the month of May!
- **iCan Shine Bike Camp – Summer 2022** TP SRTS will offer a bike riding education camp for students with special needs. Sixty volunteers are needed to assist. Visit iCanShine.org.
- **Surveys – Fall 2021 and Spring 2022.** The Parent Survey and Teacher Tally Sheet must be filled out twice a year. The survey feedback informs future SRTS programming. Fill it out!



The Takoma Park Folk Festival Is On!

Tradition meets innovation as this beloved event engages the live and virtual worlds of music and crafts.

When: September 12, 2021

Time: 4 – 9 p.m. Eastern

Where: Live-streamed from multiple locations – make your own venue!

The 2021 Takoma Park Folk Festival (TPFF 21) is on! While some aspects of the festival format are contingent on the status of COVID-19 conditions in the area, the music and spirit of this beloved annual event will be as strong as ever.

As past attendees know, the festival’s music program is customarily held on local school grounds and is organized around six performance stages. This year, reflecting the fluid pandemic conditions, the 2021 festival will feature its usual diverse range of music, including traditional and new takes on American and international folk music and other genres, but will be live-streamed, with the possibility of in-person events contingent on public health guidance.

Pending COVID-19 conditions, the festival organizers might consider other possibilities like anchoring the live-streamed events at public limited-audience locations as well as multiple “watch parties” around town. Viewers will also be encouraged to hold watch party gatherings in their homes and other venues.

Viewers will be able to get creative with their watch parties and enjoy this unique opportunity to be part of the festival from the comfort of their own homes. They can even dress the part! T-shirts and other merchandise are available online at tpff.org. And Takoma Park viewers are encouraged to order in from local restaurants



who sponsor the festival!

A Juried Craft Show is also being organized, which will be held in person at the Takoma Park Community Center from 12– 6:30 p.m.

Information about the musical program and the craft show will be posted on the TPFF website (tpff.org) and Facebook (facebook.com/takomaparkfolkfestival) during the summer as well as in the September issue of this Newsletter.

“The community and its leaders are very excited to have the festival as part of the city’s fall schedule,” said Robin Stearn, chair of the festival. “It’s especially meaningful this year as the we emerge from the pandemic and are able to enjoy live music again.”

Festival organizers especially thank the City of Takoma Park, which is a core supporter of the festival, as well as the many organizations and restaurants that have participated in and sponsored the event every year.

Please check the website (www.tpff.org) and Facebook for updates on the 2021 program schedule and performers. For additional information, contact info@tpff.org.



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Apryl Motley

Assistant: Sean Gossard

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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.

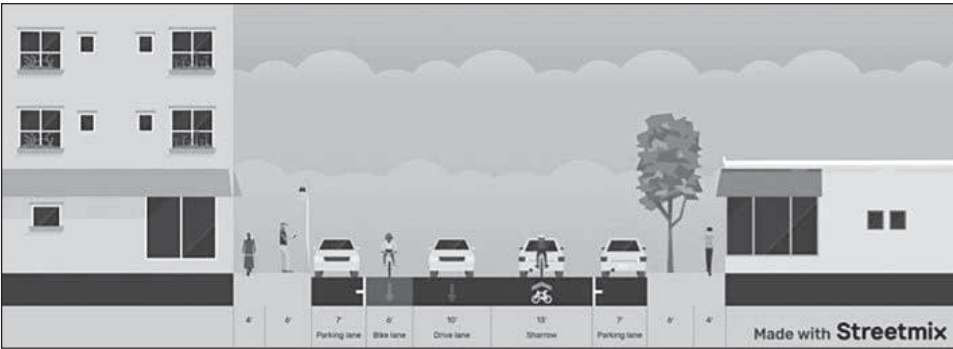
Published material containing opinions does not necessarily reflect the views of the Newsletter or the City of Takoma Park.

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

The Newsletter is printed on recycled—  content paper.



BUILDING COMMUNITY



Proposed typical section for Northern Maple Avenue (Philadelphia Avenue to Sligo Creek Trail)



Maple Avenue Complete Streets Project Update

The City is one step closer to a Complete Streets upgrade for Maple Avenue! This project aims to enhance the safety and comfort of Maple Avenue from the D.C. border to Sligo Creek Parkway, with special attention to the needs of people walking and rolling along the corridor. At the end of June, the project contractor, Toole Design, shared the Preliminary Designs (known as 30% Designs). The design

used input from community meetings, focus groups, and a City Council session to generate a basic design concept. Pending additional funding, the City will conduct additional design work and community outreach to refine the project and move it closer to reality. For more information, search for “Maple Ave Complete Streets Redesign” in the City website’s search bar.

Together Again: Join Dance Exchange’s Season Kick-Off on Maple Ave

Dance Exchange invites you to celebrate their Season Kick-Off on Sunday, September 12, 12–4 p.m. After closing its Community and Creative Hub on Maple Avenue during the height of the pandemic and reopening in phases with limited capacity, the Takoma Park-based dance organization is excited to welcome artists, neighbors, and partners to once again gather, move and make in-person.

The Season Kick-Off, happening in and around Dance Exchange’s studios at 7117 Maple Avenue, will include sample classes, performances, and opportunities to connect with Dance Exchange as well as other artists and local groups. Included in the sample classes will be Dance Exchange’s creative aging movement class for older adults—part of their Dance On program, which is made possible thanks



to the City of Takoma Park’s Community Quality of Life Grant.

Save the date and find more information as it becomes available at www.danceexchange.org or call 301-270-6700.

Minor Master Plan Process Begins

In partnership with the Montgomery County Planning Department, the City is starting the process of a Minor Master Plan update, which updates the City’s set of land use planning goals and strategies, known as a Master Plan. The focus of the Minor Master Plan update is the Washington Adventist Hospital campus and the area surrounding Maple Avenue, from Philadelphia Avenue to Sligo Creek

Parkway. On September 9, the County Planning Commission will finalize the project scope and geographic boundary. Once that is finalized, the County, working with the City, will start a full-scale community engagement process to begin shaping the plan. For more information, search for Minor Master Plan in the City website’s search bar.

Keep Growth Under Control

During the warmer months, you will probably spend more time maintaining your yard. The City’s code states that the height of all grass and weeds must be kept below 10 inches. Vines, shrubbery, hedges, and other vegetation must also be maintained. It is also important that vegetation not encroach onto the public sidewalk or extend out over the public sidewalk, including any vegetation overhanging the public sidewalk below 8 feet. The sidewalks should be clear so that people can safely get by without ending up in the street. Thank you for helping keep our community safe and beautiful.

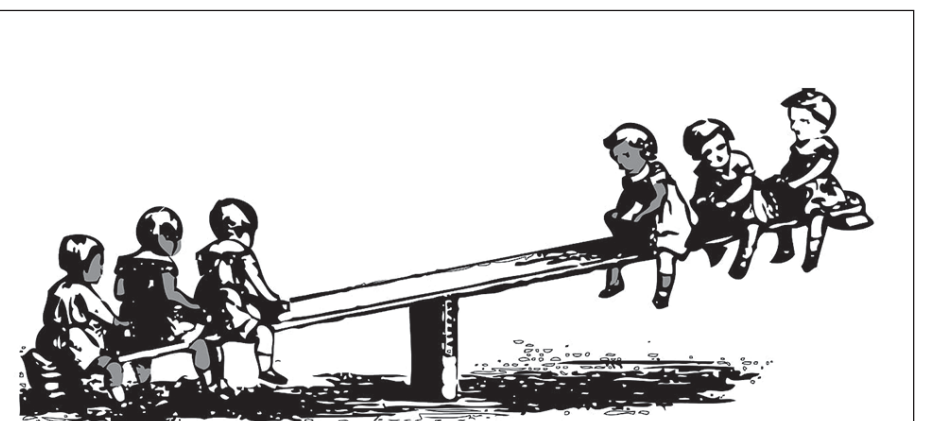
—Neighborhood Services Staff



Takoma Park Annual Play Day

Let’s Play America is planning the Takoma Park Annual Play Day with the assistance of the Recreation Department. The Play Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 25, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. to be held at Takoma Park Middle School. Rain or shine the Play Day will go on; four bands are already signed up to play, and more exciting activities are being planned. Public Works will be supplying big trucks

for the fun Touch-A-Truck activity that people of all ages enjoy. Volunteers ages 12 and older may contact info@letsplay-america.org if they are interested in helping with the event. Volunteer teens can receive community service from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. but must sign up through the Montgomery County Volunteer website. Teens help with set-up, invite people to play and then help with clean-up.



LET’S PLAY AMERICA

Everyone deserves to play!



Above: *The Adventures of Mono Liso Children's Theater*
At right: *Word Dance Theater*



Free Takoma Park Arts Events Return to the Takoma Park Community Center

Free concerts, plays, art exhibitions, film screenings and more arts events will return to the Takoma Park Community Center in September after the building reopens to the public.

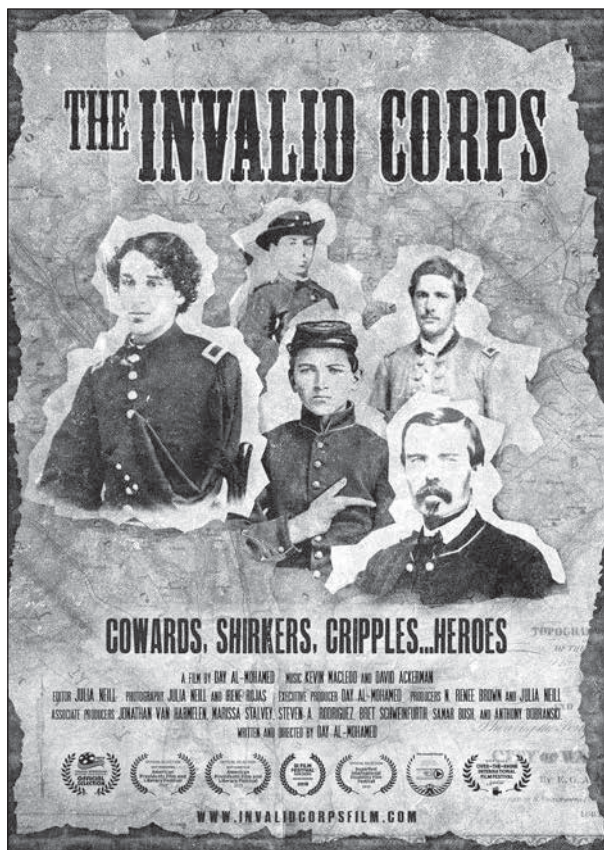
The *Takoma Park Arts* series shifted online during the COVID-19 pandemic to reach people at home with virtual poetry readings, film screenings, and concerts. Future events will be held in person in the auditorium at the Community Center (7500 Maple Avenue).

"We're very excited to bring the arts in their many forms back to the community," Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith said. "The arts are a vital part of Takoma Park's identity and local economy, and

we're happy to share the talents of a diverse range of artists and performers from across the D.C. area."

All events in the *Takoma Park Arts* series are free to everyone, regardless of whether they are city residents. The City's Arts and Humanities Division pays honoraria to support the performers, and audience donations are accepted at concerts and plays.

"Musicians, actors, and other performers shouldn't be asked to work for free, so we help support the livelihoods of our creative community," Smith said.



Above: *Cups by Ehren Tool, Uniting US Exhibition*
At left: *The Invalid Corps Film Poster*

Events are being rescheduled starting in September and through the fall. You can find more details about upcoming events and sign up for our weekly *Takoma Park Arts* e-newsletter at takomaparkmd.gov/arts.

A new screening in the popular *Vintage Movie Night* series will be held in the Community Center auditorium. Local filmmaker and film historian Richard Hall will feature short vintage films about the founding fathers and ongoing efforts to whitewash American history.

Other film screenings include a shorts

night featuring local filmmakers and two films about the Civil War, including *The Invalid Corps* and *Union*. Georgetown University professor Ben Harbert also will screen his documentary *Follow Me Down: Portraits of Louisiana Prison Musicians*. Over two years, Harbert interviewed inmate musicians in three Louisiana prisons, revealing their talents in a humanizing film about prison life and the power of music.

The gallery spaces in the Community Center will feature a new art exhibition by veterans from the Uniting US nonprof-

it organization (unitingus.org). The group encourages veterans to create art as a form of therapy and financial support. The Arts and Humanities Division organized a holiday art sale with Uniting US last December, which raised more than \$2,000 for veteran artists and the Crossroads Community Food Network.

A wide variety of performances also will be staged by local theater and dance groups, including Word Dance Theater, Dance Exchange, a Spanish-language play by Teatro de Luna, and a children's theater performance titled *Adventures of Mono Liso*.

In an upcoming lecture, University of Maryland professor Richard Bell will discuss his book *STOLEN: Five Free Boys Kidnapped into Slavery and Their Astonishing Journey Home*. The book explores the "Reverse Underground Railroad" where unscrupulous men kidnapped Black children in the North and sold them into slavery in the South, destroying lives and separating families. Nevertheless, some resourceful children escaped and made the arduous journey home.

RECREATION



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

Indoor & Outdoor classes starting in September!

TOTS

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Piggy Bank Pioneers

We will 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, and activities. We will 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 Ave

3-5 years

6 Week Session

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 11-November 6

Resident: \$65 / Non-resident: \$75

YOUTH

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Takoma Park Kids Chess Meet Up

Kids are welcome to attend the Takoma Park Kids Chess Meet Up which occurs on Sundays from 1:45 p.m.-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 class 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

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 Sept. 1. **Registration is already open, so make sure to claim your spot!**



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 led performances.

Takoma Park Community Center

7500 Maple Avenue

Dance Studio

6-13 years

Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

September 7-October 26

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 led 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 11-November 6

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 9-October 14

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 Community Center

Gymnasium

7315 New Hampshire Ave

6-12 years

7 Week Session

Saturdays, 10:15-11:15 a.m.

September 11-October 23

\$80

TEENS

FITNESS

Capoeira for Teens

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

Get your yoga mat and water bottles and join us on Saturday mornings on the 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 11-October 23

Free



Zumba for Teens

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, 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 2nd 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. Prizes will be given, and you can enter to win a family pizza night on us!

Takoma Park Recreation Center

7315 New Hampshire Avenue

Grades 6-12

Second Fridays, 6-8 p.m.

September 10

Free with Teen Membership

Teen Talk Tuesdays

Join Ms. Leicia at 5 p.m. for Teen Talk Tuesdays. Grab your seats and we'll bring the "tea"! Let's talk about fashion, fads, questions, advice, and current events, etc. You name it! Some weeks we will have experts or special guests join in on the conversations.

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 Teen Membership

RECREATION



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

Indoor & Outdoor classes starting in September!

RECREATION

■ From page 6

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 and 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! 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

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 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

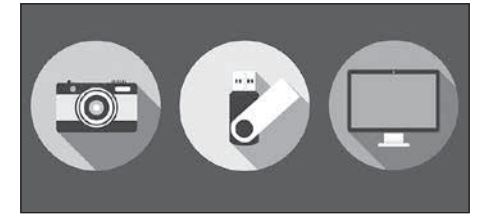
Zumba with Griselda

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. 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 7–October 26
Resident: \$25 / Non-resident: \$35

Voice Overs... Now is your time

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



Back Outside Again!

(Youth (Re)Engagement after COVID-19)

By Leicia Monfort

I'm just going to come right out and say it, "It's been a loooong year and half!" Thank goodness things are starting to get back to "normal." If you're like me, you're wondering "so now what do I do with my kid(s)? How can I support them going back out into the world after they've been cooped up for so long?"

In March, some families chose to go back into the school building while others remained virtual. Regardless of what decision was made, some parents are finding it hard for their child(ren) to socialize during this time, and with school opening back to its regular schedule in the Fall there's concern from parents on how they can successfully help their child(ren) with the transition. Here are a few tips that seem to be working for my family:

Start small. If you feel safe doing so, pick one or two friends and set up a play date (Yes, this can be done with teens, just don't let them know it's a "play date." They're too grown for those words). Some safe play date suggestions include bike riding on a path, going to a playground or skatepark, participating in scavenger



hunts, and holding cooking competition (We did this virtually and made ice cream sundaes; sooo good), etc.

Take a walk. This sounds simple enough. For those who have not been outside since the beginning of the pandemic, they have no idea what it's like outside, and though they may not come out and say it, some young people are still afraid. Taking a walk together allows your child to see what has changed and to gain a sense of normalcy. To some, seeing people who are vaccinated with-



out masks may make them feel safer and to others it can be frightening. Be sure to get a feel of how your child reacts.

Have dinner together – outside. Visit a local restaurant that has outdoor seating available. This way you are experiencing something you've done pre-pandemic without rushing the idea of being indoors with strangers.

Sign up for a Recreation Program. The Takoma Park Recreation Department is running in-person camps, and they're doing a great job of keeping the groups



small to keep our kids safe. Signing up my child for camp this summer might just have been the best decision I made for her. Camp so far has given her the connections that she has been missing during quarantine. She can share her experience with her peers and hear theirs as well. When I pick her up, she's excited to tell me what she's done each day.

Try these ideas and let us know how things are working out for you. Now get out there and enjoy yourself!



Director's Notes

Library Confessional: Getting Back into the Habit of Reading When a Pandemic Destroys Your Attention Span

By Jessica Jones

I have a confession: I didn't do much reading during the worst of the pandemic. Well, that's not exactly true. I didn't do much *new* reading during the pandemic. I re-read a lot of books, circling back to them like comfort food. I listened to a lot of new audiobooks. But I had a big mental block on new physical books.

I know I'm not the only one, but still. Librarian. Everyone has different coping mechanisms, and we can all give ourselves a little grace for the things we didn't accomplish during a worldwide pandemic. If you are struggling with your attention span, I see you. But we can get our reading groove back. Here's how I've been doing it.

1. **Give yourself permission to read whatever you want to read.** Not what you think you *should* be reading, or what other people have told you to read. This is your permission to read All the Genre Fiction and books "below your reading level." Pick up a romance novel! Read about some wizards and dragons! Go to space! Indulge in some recreational horror: research shows it can help us confront and cope with our fears. Or, read a childhood classic, like one about those Boxcar kids that no one was supervising and who were somehow allowed to live in an abandoned train car.
2. **Try shorter formats and read some novellas and short stories.** Short stories aren't just for your high school English classes; short stories can be so satisfying! Short stories are the literary equivalent of watching a movie. You get a whole self-contained story, and unlike a novel chapter that ends on a cliffhanger, the short story that ends ambiguously is telling you to put the



Credit: Tyler Feder

- book down for a bit and think about it. There's less of a compulsion to keep reading if you're trying to go to bed at a reasonable hour.
3. **Listen to an audiobook if you haven't been doing that already.** Some people think that audiobooks "don't count," but honestly? I believe that thinking is a little elitist at best and discounts many cultures' rich oral storytelling traditions at worst. Listening to a story is still absorbing a story, and it's a very forgiving format for readers who need to fidget and move their bodies.

Your resident library staff can all help find books and audiobooks that will capture your interest and help you find your way back to reading. There are so many studies out there that reinforce the benefits of reading by reducing stress, increasing empathy, promoting resilience, slowing cognitive decline, and increasing lifespan. (And yes, we can cite our sources because it's us.) **Bonus:** All these tips can help encourage the younger reluctant readers in your lives to love reading, too.

SummerQuest

It's not too late! You can still register for Origami vs. BLOX! The SummerQuest gameboard and story is available both in the library and online at the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library website: <https://ftpml.org> In addition, readers can keep track of the books they read through ReaderZone, either on a computer (via <https://www.readerzone.com>) or via a free app. The code for SummerQuest 2021 is: 9d152. SummerQuest will wrap up on September 18.



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.

Ready for Kindergarten Storytime: Do you have a child starting Kindergarten in the Fall? Join Miss Kati on Saturday, August 14 at 10 a.m. for a one-time Kindergarten readiness storytime with a couple stories, games, songs, and rhymes. There will be a take-home craft. This will be a registration or tickets-only event. (Folks can register online or come in person on the day of the program for limited tickets.) It will be held in-person before the library is open to the public. Please register in your child's name. This event will be held outdoors on the library lawn.

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 August 18. 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 children 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 now optional! 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.

Beach Reading

By Anne LeVeque

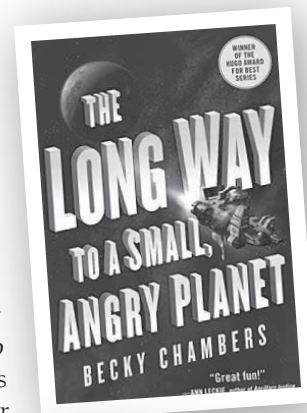
It's August, and a lot of us head to the beach (or the mountains, the lake, or even the local pool) for respite from the summer heat. It's always fun to have some light reading on hand to pass the time. Some of us bring tried and true favorites, while others may want something new to read. I polled our library staff for their favorite beach reading.

From Jessica Jones: Becky Chambers' *The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet* hits all the points I require for beach reading. It's escapism (in space!), it has interesting and engaging characters, and the story doesn't stress me out. The plot: a group of mostly lovely people (some of which are human) tunnel through space on a government contract to open a wormhole to the intergalactic consortium's newest member planet.

From Gene Miller: Non-beach reading for people who hate the beach: *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. If you are a bibliophile, a visit to the J.P. Morgan Library on Madison Avenue should be on your bucket list, as it's one of the premiere collections of old and rare books in the

world. That it is such is largely the work of Morgan's personal librarian, Belle DaCosta Greene. This book is the fictionalized story of Ms. Greene, who was born Belle Marion Greener in Washington D.C., where her father was dean at Howard University's School of Law. And of course, thereby hangs the tale: a brilliant and enterprising young Black woman becomes the personal librarian to one of the richest White men in the late-Victorian world and builds the most astonishing collection anywhere. The centennial celebration of the Morgan Library is coming in 2024. Please go but read this book first.

From Mary Rein: My summer reading suggestion is *A Honeybee Heart Has Five Openings: A Year of Keeping Bees*, by Helen Jukes. This refreshing memoir will take you away from the pandemic and far from D.C.: it will give you a year in Oxford, England with a hive of honeybees in the back garden. You will meet the author, her friends, the bees, and a quirky community of urban beekeepers. Helen Jukes is a curious and thoughtful observer with a wide-ranging mind. I know a lot more about bees and beekeeping than I did a



BEACH READING

■ From page 8

month ago, and I have been invited to think in some new ways. But truly, the book affected my heart; I closed it with reluctance. I did not want to say goodbye.

From Kati Nolfi: *Brave Like That* by Lindsey Stoddard and *Tune It Out* by Jamie Sumner. These middle grade books (8–12) are both about two sensitive kids navigating life with their desires and discomforts and their parent's expectations. *Tune It Out* is about a girl with Sensory Processing Disorder and a knack for music, who is removed from her mother's care and must get used to an entirely new life. *Brave Like That* is the unlikely story of a boy who is dropped at a firehouse as a baby and is adopted by a firefighter, who used to be a football star. While they are nominally realistic fiction, both books have a gentleness that is rare in real life but welcome in fiction.

From Jill Raymond: *Get Well Soon: History's Worst Plagues and the Heroes Who Fought Them*, by Jennifer Wright. This is not a joke! This little tome really is a bit lighthearted, as it skims through some of the world's most awful mass illnesses and describes the contrasting ways different actors confronted them. The original nugget is that the author found heroes—one or a number of them—who chose, for a variety of reasons, to act differently than the afflicted population as a whole, and who thereby showed the way to ending the horrors, which the times did not provide the tools for understanding. If I could get to the beach, I would take it along!

For relaxation fiction, I go to fascinating but not gory or scary mysteries, like those of Tony Hillerman who wrote novels describing the Navajo landscape from

the perspective of tribal police and his daughter Anne Hillerman who is carrying on the stories of her father's beloved main characters in sequels to his stories. I'm currently reading *The Sinister Pig*, which skewers the Feds' clumsy handling of criminal justice in the tribal context as the central characters, both Navajo cops, plus a Hopi deputy sheriff, solve a robbery and the related killings as they make their way through labyrinthine canyons in the Four Corners region.

From Phil Shapiro: Any of the books by Dave Barry in our library collection will probably tickle your funny bone. Pulitzer prize-winning humorist Dave Barry has a way with words that will often make you giggle. Look him up on YouTube to view his speech to Takoma Park residents in 2016. (Note from Anne: Some titles include *Lessons from Lucy: The Simple Joys of an Old, Happy Dog*; *Best. State. Ever.: A Florida Man Defends His Homeland*; *Peter and the Starcatchers* (with Ridley Pearson); *Dave Barry Is Not Making This Up*, and many, many more! (The video Phil mentions can be found at youtu.be/x30dt7tce9U.)

Finally, from yours truly: When I'm at the beach, I often re-read Dorothy Sayers' mystery books, particularly my favorite, *Gaudy Night*. This year I will be taking Laurie King's latest Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes mystery, *Castle Shade*. Call it fanfic, pastiche, takeoff, derivative work (if you're a copyright lawyer), whatever: Sherlock Holmes has inspired more of it than any other fictional character, and Laurie King has made it her own with the introduction of her character, Mary Russell. This is the 22nd book in the series, and while many series go stale after so many volumes, King keeps it fresh. I'm looking forward to her take on vampires.



Twelve Community Quality of Life Grant Recipients Announced

From creative aging through dance, art therapy for elementary students, IT workforce development opportunities, and much more, the City of Takoma Park's FY22 Community Quality of Life grantees will provide programs that improve the lives of City residents by providing greater access and opportunities for participation in the arts and sciences.

In FY22, the City Council approved \$105,000 to support eligible projects of non-profit organizations and business associations. After a thorough application and review process, the resident-led Grants Review Committee* recommended funding twelve non-profit organizations, and on June 2, the City Council approved those recommendations. These projects will serve hundreds of residents of all ages. As a funding requirement, 75 percent of all direct beneficiaries will be Takoma Park residents, and at least 51 percent will be residents from low-to-moderate income households.

The Fiscal Year 2022 Grantees and their projects are as follows:

- **Carpe Diem Arts:** *Healthy Families: Healthy Communities*

- **Community Bridges, Inc.:** *Community Bridges Girls Program*
- **CREATE Arts Center:** *smARTkids program at Takoma Park Elementary School*
- **Cyberinjazz Global Inc.:** *Cyberinjazz STEAM Summer Program*
- **Dance Exchange:** *Dance On Cohort*
- **ESYDA:** *Entrepreneurial and Leadership Program*
- **Ethiopian Community Center, Inc.:** *Bilingual Career and Service Navigator*
- **GB Youth Media:** *The Promoters Program/Close the Digital Gap*
- **Identity:** *COVID-19 Health and Safety Ambassador Program*
- **MC Media:** *Youth Media Academy*
- **Per Scholas:** *Per Scholas NCR IT Job Training*
- **Upwardly Global:** *Building a Vibrant Takoma Park Through Immigrant Workforce Integration*

For more information about the Community Quality of Life grant program, visit takomaparkmd.gov/grants.

*The Community Quality of Life Grant Program is overseen by the City of Takoma Park Department of Housing and Community Development. All funding recommendations are made by the Grants Review Committee, which comprises Takoma Park residents with demonstrated expertise in community development, grants management, public arts, or related areas of interest. If you would like to serve on the Committee or know someone who would be a good candidate, please email Grants@TakomaParkMD.gov.

FY22 Grant Review Committee Roster: Nadine Bloch (Ward 3), Keli Cochran (Ward 6), Nicole Ferraiolo (Ward 1), Susan Rosenblum (Ward 3), and Mark Swartz (Ward 1).



(Top) A CREATE ARTS participant working on an art project

(Above) Dance Exchange at Hampshire Towers

(Right) A woman receiving job counseling from Upwardly Global



Dance Exchange at the New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center

Credit: Ben Carver

BOOKS-TO-GO CONTINUES!

We are continuing our Books-to-Go service and our Books-to-You (delivery) service. Here is what you need to know:

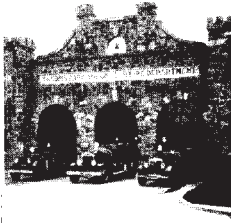
Email your request to librarytakomapark@gmail.com (preferred) or phone us at 240-507-0229. In the subject line of your email, include the name on the account you are using and either your birthday (month and day, not year) or the last four digits of your library card. In your message, list the items 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. If you have **overdue** books, you will not be permitted to check out new ones!

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.

Books-to-You

If you would like home delivery of your request (Takoma Park residents only), please indicate that in your email, with delivery in the subject line, and your address and the best phone number to reach you in your message. We will notify you when your request will be delivered, and you will receive a call from 240-856-0255 when it arrives. Deliveries must be received in person; we will not leave books at your door.

AT YOUR SERVICE



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of August 2, 2021, 33 people have died in fires compared to 32 in 2020.

Hot vehicle deaths

As of August 2, 2021, 10 children

have died in hot vehicles. The only way we can prevent a tragedy, is to check the back seat when getting out of your vehicle. Make sure everyone goes with you and don't forget to lock the vehicle.

Safety message

In the event of fire in your home, you must have a pre-plan.

- Plan two ways out of each room, especially the bedrooms.
- Designate a meeting place outside, and make sure everyone knows the location to ensure everyone is out.
- Call the fire department 9-1-1 from a neighbor's house.
- Once out, stay out. Don't go back for any reason.
- Review these items with the family on a regular basis.

Persons with Disabilities: Being Prepared

By Claudine Schweber, Co-chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee, Takoma Park



For persons with disabilities, being prepared and cared for is a 24/7 life-long necessity. Accessibility is about daily living situations—the ability to call 911, use a computer, get to a shelter, stay indoors for days in case of storms or power outages—as well as surviving fires, storms, extreme heat, power outages.

Thirty years ago, on July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was finally signed into law. In the intervening 31 years, all of us have benefited from some universal design changes that were developed for persons with disabilities, such as curb cuts at sidewalk corners—good for shopping carts and children's carriages; audio at street crossings; automatic door openers. Thank you ADA folks!

Today, the Maryland Department of Disabilities website offers information on a variety of issues, such as employment, emergency preparedness, disability benefits, technology. So, three decades after the ADA, what are some of the challenges that need preparedness planning for persons with disabilities, their families, and supporters?

Contacting 911 emergency help:

Beginning August 2020, persons with speech difficulties or barriers or in an unsafe situation could TEXT 911 in Maryland. Until then, talking was the only way to get emergency help. That meant that those who could not speak, articulate, hear could not get immediate help themselves. Try Text to 911 to be prepared in case it's needed.

Technology skill and access:

With so much information now on the web (e.g., this column) those without the access, skills, or equipment can miss important, lifesaving information. The Maryland Technology Assistance Program (MDTAP) provides resources, loans for assistive technology, help and more. Check out the video www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ls6UeJb7oWk&t=3s for more information about the Loan Closet Library or call 1-800-832-4827.

Service animal care:

Service animals are considered a critical partner under the ADA, so they cannot be excluded from places (restriction allowed only if pet behavior is direct threat to life or safety). Action: pre-

pare a ready kit go bag to help the pet for at least a week.

Preparedness Plan:

- List of persons who can help or should be contacted in case of emergency, with phone/email info. Post one copy in a visible place and share with these people; give one person a key to the residence. **Note:** Include at least one phone/email contact for a person out of the area.
- List of medications, pharmacy used, doctor information, hospital preference or one that's been used; include contact information for accessible transportation.
- Identify specific disability support needs—deaf, immobility, sensory disability, blind/low vision—in advance, with family/support persons to ensure all is working.
- Power outage: Have alternative power sources, such as lanterns, powered cell phone charger, flashlights and working batteries. Do not light candles.
- If you depend on electricity for emergency medical and life support equipment, such as respirators and kidney dialysis machines, sign up for Emergency Medical Equipment Notification Program with Pepco: www.pepco.com/MyAccount/Customersupport/Pages/DC/EmergencyMedicalEquipment.aspx.

Receiving benefits: To assure that Social Security or other regular benefits are paid, switching to electronic can help to assure financial security before disaster strikes. It also eliminates the risk of stolen checks. Create direct deposit to a checking or savings account. If you get federal benefits you can sign up by calling 800-333-1795 or visiting <https://fiscal.treasury.gov/GoDirect>.

For more information about the resources discussed here, visit mdod.maryland.gov/ep/Pages/prep-yourself.aspx. Questions? It's easy to contact us at tpepe@takomaparkmd.gov 301-891-7126. Join us at *Talk of Takoma* WOWD/LP 94.3, Sundays, 1-3 for "Dear Bea(trice) Prepared."



Passport Services

Passport services are available on first come, first served basis Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center on the second floor. Appointments are required and can be scheduled by emailing sofiav@takomaparkmd.gov.

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:

ከታች ያለውን ደህን አዲ ደረጃ ላይ መጻፍ ለሌሎች ቋንቋዎች በመስመር ላይ ማንበብ ይቻላል ትርጉሙን በመጠቀም በታክሚ ከተማ ውስጥ ያለውን በህገ ህግ ደር ጣቢያ ጠቅ ክፍረትን በህገ ስልጠና አገናኝ ላይ ይመልከቱ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥንግ ላይ ታስባዎትኝ የአሰሳ አዎሊን ይምረጡና ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልቋይ ሳጥን።

Bringing music to Takoma Park one backyard at a time

By Sean Gossard

For a little over a year now, one non-profit group has been helping to bring music to the air of Takoma Park and the surrounding areas while keeping people safe by staying socially distant. Jazz Kitchen Productions, which was kicked off last year by Michael Philips, has been putting on concerts during the pandemic being hosted in the backyards of neighbors around the Greater Washington area.

Its mission is to “organize and present concerts and other public events to support jazz musicians and the local jazz music scene in the DC-Maryland-Virginia area,” according to its website. The concerts mostly feature local jazz musicians — like Elijah Jamal Balbed, Todd Marcus, Chuck Redd, and Shannon Gunn — but they’ve also had a few bluegrass and country rock acts swing by. Philips, who is also the music director at WOWD Takoma Radio, said it was important to him to find a way to help musicians who lost a major part of their livelihood when the pandemic hit.

“The pandemic came, and all these local musicians weren’t able to play live and couldn’t express themselves through art and also, it effected their livelihood,” Philips said. “It was created in response to the pandemic.”

Philips found inspiration from Creative Alliance and their “Sidewalk Serenades” series out of Baltimore. “They would get



At left: Lafayette Gilchrist, right, with his band, Eric Kennedy, center, on drums, and Herman Burney, left, on bass.

Below: Jazz Kitchen’s mission is to “organize and present concerts and other public events to support jazz musicians and the local jazz music scene in the DC-Maryland-Virginia area.”



Above: Trombonist Reginald Cyntje performs in a neighborhood backyard during a weekly Jazz Kitchen concert.



people to come by with a guitar or fiddle and play in front of your house for 15 or so minutes then move on to the next house and the next house,” he said. “With the jazz, we wanted it to be longer, so we’ve been doing 45 minutes from house to house.”

According to Phillips, this way of setting up shows also helps keep the costs down for the concert hosts while making sure

musicians are still able to make a living. “If you’ve ever hired a band for a wedding or something, they can be pretty expensive, like \$1,000,” he said, “so this is a way to spread that cost across several houses.” Originally, he said, they kept audiences to just around 10 people, but as restrictions have been lifting, more people have been able to come out to enjoy the shows. They’ve also been more open to allowing people to eat and drink during the shows.

Philips said they’ve done around 100 of these concert series around the area

and that audiences have been incredibly responsive. “People get their own private concerts in their front or backyards,” he said. “The ones in the front yards are really fun, and they become sort of block parties with people bringing their chairs and sitting and relaxing.”

While it’s mostly focused on jazz music, Philips said he’s hoping to branch out into different genres.

“I expanded it last year since I got requests from people who wanted to hear bluegrass,” he said. “I’d like to get into doing some classical music, small string quartets and things like that.”

He even had a country rock act hold a backyard concert, but it’s a bit more complicated setting up and taking down the speakers and instruments. “I did one country rock band, Ruthie and the Wranglers, and they had a lot of equipment,” he said. “It takes them a little longer, so they just do three concerts in a day. The jazz artists do four a day.”

Philips is not sure what’s in store for the backyard concert series’ future, but there are still plenty of concerts to go this summer. “It’s so much fun and the people who host it are unanimously telling me how much fun they have and really love,” he said. “I’ve done a whole bunch in Takoma Park; people around here really love it.” If you’re interested in hosting a backyard concert of your very own, visit www.jkproductions.org.

RECREATION

■ From page 7

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+

ART

Basic Drawing

Draw with perspective, lights and darks and different pen or pencil techniques. Instructor: Alice Sims
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Art Studio
55 & up
4 Week Session
Wednesdays, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.
September 22–October 13
\$5



Crocheting Group

Join the group to learn new stitches. Share what you’re working on. Have fun and meet old and new friends. Sponsored by Art for the People. Group led by Alice Sims and Sue Bracey.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Senior Room
55 & up
6 Week Session
Tuesdays, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.
September 14–October 19
\$5



CAMP

Mini Camp for 55 plus

We’re planning a mini two-day Specialty Camp for Boomers and Seniors. Join us for part one coming

in September and then part two coming in June. It’s educational and lots of fun! Enjoy demos, unique interactive programs, and performances. Limited space, so register early. See the Fall 2021 Forever Young newsletter for details.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Art Studio
55 & up
2 Day Session
Monday & Tuesday, 12:30–4:30 p.m.
September 13 & September 14
Resident: \$49 / Non-resident: \$59

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

Bone Builders

Balance exercises, weight training, and discussion concerning diet, safety and exercise. For best health benefits and increase in bone density, participants are encouraged to attend class twice a week.
Instructor: Anne McHenry
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
55 & up
7 Week Session
Tuesdays & Fridays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
September 21–October 22
Free

Classic Foundational Fitness and Training

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10–11 a.m.
September 7–October 21
Free



Enhance Your Fitness

Tuesdays, 8:45–9:45 a.m.

September 7–October 19
Free

Line Dance

Learn how exercise can be fun with music. No experience necessary. Instructor: Barbara Brown
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Room
55 & up
Wednesdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
September 8–October 20
\$5

Ping Pong

Great fun! Learn game rules and practice skills.
Instructor: Coach Donn Olsen
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Game Room
55 & up
Mondays, 12–1 p.m.
September 13–October 25
\$5

Tai Chi Strength

Begin with meditation and stretching followed by Tai Chi forms and balance exercises to build strength and endurance. End with cool down exercises.
Instructor: Master Robert Thompson
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Room
55 & up
Tuesdays, 12–1 p.m.
September 7–October 19
\$5

Yoga for Healthy Aging

This class helps build strength, endurance, flexibility, and range of motion and improve posture and balance. Students need to provide their own yoga sticky mat. Instructor: Carol Mermey
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
55 & up
Fridays, 12–1 p.m.
September 10–October 22
\$5

Zumba Gold

The design of the class introduces easy-to-follow Zumba choreography that focuses on

balance, range of motion and coordination.

Instructor: Yesika Flores
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
55 & up
Wednesdays, 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
September 8–October 20
\$5

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.

Monster Bash

Join us Saturday, October 30, 2021. 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-19 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.



August 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 September issue is August 13, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning August 30. To submit calendar items, email tpnewse-ditor@takomaparkmd.gov. At press time, all City facilities were scheduled to fully reopen 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

ReVamp Fit Home Workout
Wednesdays, 10–11 a.m.

Classic Foundational Fitness and Training
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10–11 a.m.
55 & up

Spirit Group Fitness
New videos uploaded each Wednesday

Jazz Dance
Thursdays, 6–7 p.m.
6–13 years

SHARE IDEAS

Attend virtual committee meetings!

Note: The City Council will be on recess through Tuesday, September 7. The first City Council meeting in September will be on Wednesday, September 8.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
Thursday, August 12, 7 p.m.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
Thursday, August 26, 7 p.m.

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE
Tuesday, August 10, 7:30 p.m.

PARKING MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
Thursday, August 19, 7:30 p.m.

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD
Monday, August 16, 7 p.m.

RECREATION COMMITTEE
Thursday, August 19, 7 p.m.

TREE COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, August 10, 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

A Community Day
Saturday, August 21, 4–8 p.m.
35 Van Buren Street, N.W., Washington, DC
Van Buren United Methodist Church and Pan Masters Steel Orchestra present an afternoon of steelband and DJ music. Caribbean/American food available for purchase. Donations welcome.

Movie Night
Saturday, September 11, dusk
Ed Wilhelm Field
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 takomaparkmd.gov/recreation to vote on the movie. For additional information, contact John Webster at 301-891-7225 or johnw@takomaparkmd.gov.

Dance Exchange Season Kick-Off
Sunday, September 12, 12–4 p.m.
7117 Maple Avenue
Dance Exchange invites you to celebrate its Season Kick-Off. The Season Kick-Off will include sample classes, performances, and opportunities to connect with Dance Exchange as well as other artists and local groups. Save

the date and find more information as it becomes available at www.danceexchange.org or call 301-270-6700.

Takoma Park Annual Play Day
Saturday, September 25, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Takoma Park Middle School
Rain or shine the Play Day will go on; four bands are already signed up to play, and more exciting activities are being planned. Public Works will be supplying big trucks for the fun Touch-A-Truck activity that people of all ages enjoy. Volunteers ages 12 and older may contact info@letsplayamerica.org if they are interested in helping with the event.

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.



**SAVE UP TO 20%
THE COST**

**GET HELP
THROUGHOUT
THE PROCESS**

**CUSTOMIZE
YOUR SYSTEM**




Join your Neighbors

Learn more about solar


Sign up for a free informational session

WWW.MYGREENMONTGOMERY.ORG/CAPITAL-AREA-SOLAR-CO-OP/



City of Takoma Park

Connecting Our Community



In Many Ways!

TakomaParkMD.gov