

WHAT'S NEW?

Winter Weather Response

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Resources for Residents

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Winter Coat Drive

Page 10

Holidays Closings

Christmas Holiday

City offices will be closed from 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 23 through Sunday, Dec. 26.

New Year's Holiday

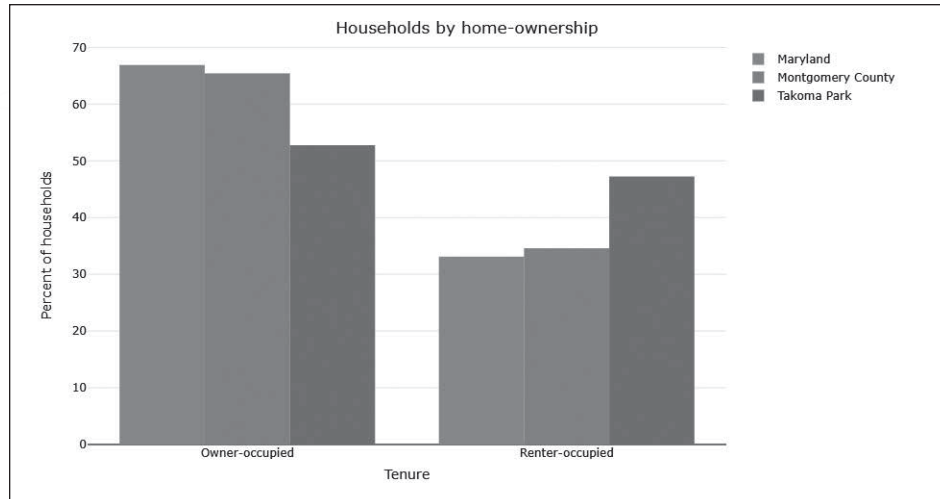
City offices will be closed Friday, Dec. 31 and Sunday, Jan. 2.

Trash holidays

None this month

Look for this icon throughout this issue

See page 10



As the Households by Home-Ownership Chart illustrates, approximately 47.24% of Takoma Park's population are renters. This is one example of the types of charts and visualizations generated by the Takoma Park Data Explorer.



City of Takoma Park Releases Data Explorer

By Daniel Power, Public Administration Specialist

The City of Takoma Park recently released the Takoma Park Data Explorer, (r.takomaparkmd.gov/hcd/takomapark-explorer.html) a one-stop-shop for members of the public to learn more about the

City and its residents through data. The Data Explorer provides summary text and visualizations of selected Census American Community Survey data for 2015–2019, including the City's demographics, racial and economic inequalities, and

DATA EXPLORER □ Page 3



New Beginnings

A Message from Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart

This time of year is one of transitions and reflections. We look back on 2021 and forward to 2022. Over the last year, there has been a great deal of change in the City. We have said goodbye to long-time residents, who helped shape the community we live in today. We have welcomed many new families and businesses.

As we reflect on 2021, I



Kate Stewart

ask, as you read this, to pause for a moment to recall those who we have lost this year — members of our community who cared for others, championed the causes of justice and fairness, and made our community so much better for being a part of it.

Now, let us look back on 2021. A significant change in

MAYOR' MESSAGE □ Page 3

Information and Resources: Covid19
takomaparkmd.gov

Questions, Comments and Suggestions
askus@takomaparkmd.gov

#TogetherTKPK



A LIST
2021

CITIES

Takoma Park 1 of 95 Global Cities Named as Climate Leaders

Takoma Park has been recognized by CDP as one of the top 95 cities out of 1,100 cities across the globe taking bold leadership on environmental action and transparency, despite the continued pressures of tackling the coronavirus pandemic on local and national economies and societies.

Designed to encourage and support cities to ramp up their climate action and ambition, CDP's Cities A List is based on environmental data disclosed by cities to the CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System. CDP is a global non-profit that runs the world's environmental disclosure system for companies, cities, states, and regions. More than 14,000 organizations around the world disclosed data through CDP in 2021, including more than 13,000 companies worth over 64 percent of global market capitalization and over 1,100 cities, states, and regions. CDP is a founding member of the Science Based Targets initiative, We Mean Business Coalition, The Investor Agenda, and the Net Zero Asset Managers initiative.

A clear momentum in city climate disclosure and action is building — for the first time, more than 1,000 cities are reporting their environmental impact through CDP in 2021. Meanwhile, 965 cities received a rating for their climate action from CDP in 2021, a substantial rise in the 591 cities scored in 2020.

To score an A, a city must disclose publicly and have a city-wide emissions inventory, have set an emissions reduction target and a renewable energy target for the future, and have published a climate action plan. It must also complete a climate risk and

CLIMATE LEADER □ Page 3

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

ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

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

Inside



New Bus Shelters
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Snow Angels
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Friends Book Group
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Advocacy for Women Composers
Page 11

DOCKET

Official City Government Meetings

CITY COUNCIL RECESS

The City Council will be on recess until Wednesday, January 12. If circumstances require the Council to meet during the recess, a notice will be posted on the City website and a special agenda email will be sent. 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.

CITY BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMISSION ON LANDLORD-TENANT AFFAIRS

Wednesday, December 1, 6:30 p.m.

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 14, 7:30 p.m.

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, December 20, 7 p.m.

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 18, 7 p.m.

SUSTAINABLE BANKING AND INVESTMENTS TASK FORCE

Monday, December 13, 7 p.m.

Monday, December 27, 7 p.m.

TREE COMMISSION

Appeal Hearing

Tuesday, December 7, 7 p.m.

YOUTH COUNCIL

Sunday, December 5, 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 19, 3:30 p.m.

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

At the City Council meeting on **October 20, 2021**, **Ordinance 2021-44** was adopted to authorize the City Manager to use \$250,000 from the Housing Reserve Fund to support the renovation of Hillwood Manor Apartments at 1100 Linden Avenue. Also adopted were a series of appointment resolutions. **Resolution 2021-33** appointed the following to the Board of Elections: Tim Anderegg, Ward 6; Curtis Antonucci, Ward 2; Ben Bellows, Ward 3; Matthew Ling, Ward 2; Margaret Morehouse, Ward 2; Trevor Parry-Giles, Ward 5; Angel Tabe, Ward 2. **Resolution 2021-34** appointed the following to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs: Chad Boggan, Ward 1; Carolin Bermudez, Ward 2; Juliana Chenue, Ward 6; Mark Dusseau, Ward 5; Scott Gilmore, Ward 5; Sawa Kamara, Ward 5; Karen Krueger, Ward 2; Michael Macko, Ward 3. **Resolution 2021-35** appointed Jess Bravin, Ward 3; Keli Cochran, Ward 6; David Hahn, Ward 6; Daniel Katz, Ward 2; Michael Lezaja, Ward 1; Michael Mulé, Ward 6; Patricia Anne Murphy, Ward 2 to the Ethics Commission. **Resolution 2021-36** appointed Meipo Martin, Ward 2; Paul O'Brien, Ward 4; Bart Sheard, Ward 3; Xavier Sparrow, Ward 3; Gorky Villa, Ward 2; and James Woodworth, Ward 2 to the Tree Commission. **Resolution 2021-37** reappointed Julie Boddy, Paul Gunter, and Jay Levy to the Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee. **Resolution 2021-39** reappointed Ashley Flory, Ward 1; Anne Perrault, Ward 3; and Clifford Schwartz, Ward 2.

On **November 3, 2021**, the City Council adopted 2022 legislative priorities by **Resolution 2021-39**. The priorities include: Mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on residents, businesses and the City of Takoma Park; Increase access to affordable and energy efficient housing for residents of Takoma Park; Mitigate the impacts of climate change; Reimagine public safety; Encourage timely Purple Line construction and mitigation efforts; Support expanded funding flexibility for municipalities to mitigate funding dependent on property taxes; Continue efforts to meet Vision Zero goals for pedestrian safety; Ensure that any movement toward the legalization of cannabis utilizes the revenue generated to invest in communities disproportionately impacted by the "war on drugs;" and Support efforts to consolidate election ballots.

Also, at the meeting on **November 3, 2021**, a series of appointment resolutions were adopted: **Resolution 2021-40** appointed members to the Arts and Humanities Committee: Lottie Doughty, Ward 3; Dale Ingram, Ward 6; Bethany Karn, Ward 1; Melanie Modlin, Ward 6; Thomas Parlon, Ward 4; Dayrelis Rios, Ward 1; Leslie Sapp, Ward 3; Ramon Sola, Ward 4; and John Warren, Ward 5. **Resolution 2021-41** appointed Emergency Preparedness Committee members: Chris Beck, Ward 2; Mandi Booth, Ward 2; Dianne Cherry, Ward 5; Jim Della-Giacoma, Ward 2; Ami Gadhia, Ward 2; Troy Jacobs, Ward 5; Emily Marshall, Ward 4; Kathleen Quinn, Ward

2; and Claudine Schweber, Ward 3. **Resolution 2021-42** appointed members to the Grants Review Committee: Nadine Bloch, Ward 3; Keli Cochran, Ward 6; Nicole Ferraiolo, Ward 1; Lucy Moore, Ward 3; Susan Rosenblum, Ward 3; Mike Schoenke, Ward 3; Jim Sebastian, Ward 1; Derek Shiao, Ward 5; and Mark Swartz, Ward 1. **Resolution 2021-43** appointed members to the Recreation and Community Engagement Committee: Michael Asrat, Ward 2; Mackenzie Brown, Ward 3; Shana Fulcher, Ward 1; Jay Keller, Ward 3; Ellen Marcus, Ward 2; Cherwanda Oliver, Ward 5; Rachna Rikhye, Ward 1; Jill Saletta, Ward 6; and John Worley, Ward 2.

There were other appointments made on **November 3, 2021**. The Council appointed the Sustainable Maryland committee by **Resolution 2021-44**: Megan Andargie, Ward 2; Chiara Atoyebi, Ward 6; Brittany Baker, Ward 5; David Bend, Ward 1; Parag Khandhar, Ward 21; Janet Owens, Ward 3; Diana Picon Manyari, Ward 3; Orissa Samaroo, Ward 2; and Sophia Yarrow, Ward 2. Appointments were made to the Task Force on Sustainable Banking and Investments by **Resolution 2021-45**: Michael Ashford, Ward 2; David Bend, Ward 1; Amber Cameron, Ward 4; Rachel Fredman Lyngaas, Ward 2; William Girardo, Ward 2; Lesley Hunter, Ward 2; Jay Levy, Ward 1; Christine Pendzich, Ward 2; and Victor Thuronyi, Ward 1.

CITY COUNCIL WARD REDISTRICTING UPDATE

Draft redistricting map options are available for review at takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/redistricting. These maps are subject to change. The opportunity to edit a map or create your own map on the redistricting portal will end on January 7.

The City Council will be discussing proposed ward boundaries in January. An updated schedule will be provided in the January issue of the Takoma Park Newsletter. Questions? Contact Jessie Carpenter at jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov.

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'S MESSAGE

■ From page 1

the City was welcoming a **new City Manager**. After conducting a thorough national search and an extensive interview process, the City Council selected Jamal T. Fox as the new City Manager. Mr. Fox began work at the City of Takoma Park on August 2, 2021.

Another significant shift in the second half of 2021 was the **re-opening** on August 23 of many City facilities. The Recreation Center and the Community Center returned to regular building hours while the Library, Computer Center and Passport Services offered extended hours. A mask mandate is still in effect for all facilities and will continue until further notice.

Even though we had to follow COVID-19 restrictions for much of the year, City staff did a fantastic job of **safely bringing our community together, and here are a few samples:**

- National Night Out - first open event for the City
- Public Space Values Workshop - Parks and Playgrounds
- Drives (Winter Coat, Pet Drive, Domestic Violence Care packages)
- We Belong Here: Race Equity Walk
- Monster Bash with Trunk n Treat

The City also continues to partner with various organizations, health and wellness clinics, and federal agencies to bring **FREE COVID-19 Vaccines to the Community**. These partnerships include:

- Partnering with Small Things Matter for Free Vaccine Pop Up Clinics in front of

the Community Center

- Collaborating with Southern Management/Park Ritchie Apartments, FEMA, the National Guard, and Food Justice DMV for apartment-based clinics.
- Working with the Office of Community Partnerships, FEMA Strike Team and the 2020 Complete Count Committee to bring the FEMA Mobile Vaccination Units to the City and sending bilingual volunteers door-to-door in the community to let residents know that the units were available, free and interpreters were there to answer questions.

Throughout 2021, the City continued to address food insecurity and assist residents impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, we have been working with non-profits to get food for those in need.

We also know residents **need assistance paying their rents or condo fees, receiving unemployment benefits, and much more**. Our City staff continues to provide one-on-one support. Personally, I have seen them in action late at night and on the weekends. Together, we have been on the phone, talking with building managers and owners to ensure buildings are properly maintained during the pandemic and assisting residents with accurate information in different languages.

As we look back on 2021, we have excelled in our work on **housing**. Homeownership is possible thanks to the City's Home Stretch Down Payment Assistance Program, which provides financial assistance to eligible individuals and families seeking to achieve homeownership. Ten thousand dollars is available for down pay-

ment assistance per qualified individual or household on a first-come, first-served basis. This year our tenth family was able to purchase a home in the City of Takoma Park utilizing this program.

This year also marks Habitat for Humanity's first home project in lower Montgomery County, thanks to a partnership with the City. Through this partnership, an 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. In addition, Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland 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 residential development in the City. Once development is complete, Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland will sell the duplex homes to two local families unable to afford a home through the traditional market.

Reimagining public safety was a focus of our work in 2021. The City of Takoma Park appreciates all of the hard work done by the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force (RPSTF) and the thoughtful recommendations. The City of Takoma Park is committed to reimagining public safety in Takoma Park. This involves a comprehensive staff review of all of the RPSTF recommendations and a holistic approach to how the

City can best provide public safety services. Specifically, as we move into 2022, the City will be looking at how best to provide mental health services in our community.

A major accomplishment on the City Council was a multi-year effort to **reimagine our committee structure**. Council members and staff worked to create and support more diverse and representative Council-appointed committees. We took measures this year to put in place:

- A fresh approach to recruitment and appointment of Committee members
- Address financial and social barriers that committee participation for residents of color face disproportionately higher rates than white residents
- Improvements in training and operations of committees – a critical component to ensure that committees and members function in a welcoming way for all residents
- Bolster committee's capacity to apply race equity considerations to their work.

We have also seen an increase in **new businesses in our community**. On November 13, thanks to Main Street Takoma and Takoma Langley Crossroads, we held 21 ribbon cuttings for businesses that had opened since COVID-19 began.

We have also seen **façade improvements and a new mural along New Hampshire Avenue**. The City was awarded a Façade grant from the State to partner with commercial property owners on New Hampshire Avenue to renovate their properties. The funds leveraged reinvestment

MAYOR'S MESSAGE □ Page 9

DATA EXPLORER

■ From page 1

access to broadband internet among residents.

All visualizations are interactive, letting interested residents go further in exploring Census data. The Data Explorer also compares results for Takoma Park to Montgomery County and Maryland (as show in the graph above), identifying statistically significant differences in results for the City compared to the state and county.

The Data Explorer is organized into tabs and sub-tabs that users can move between. An "Overall" tab provides a summary of data analyzed throughout the Explorer. The "Methodology" tab includes methodological information and instructions on how to use the explorer. Each of the other tabs is subject-based: demographics; race and ethnicity; housing; poverty, employment, and income; and education, health

insurance, and computer-access. These tabs feature summaries and sub-tabs, allowing for further exploration.

Each year, the Explorer will be updated with the most recent five-year American Community Survey data, allowing residents continued access to up-to-date information about their City. Over time, the City may add other visualizations or text to the Explorer, as documented in the "Updates and Citations" section of the "Methodology" tab. The code used to produce the Explorer can be found on the City's GitHub page (github.com/City-of-Takoma-Park/hced).

The City webpage announcing the Explorer includes a PDF with instructions, and a video explaining how to use the Explorer is coming soon! Please send any comments, feedback, or suggestions to Dan Powers, Public Administration Specialist at daniel@takomaparkmd.gov.

CLIMATE LEADER

■ From page 1

vulnerability assessment and have a climate adaptation plan to demonstrate how it will tackle climate hazards. Many A List cities are also taking a variety of other leadership actions, including political commitment from a city's mayor to tackle climate change. Takoma Park's City Council has declared a Climate Emergency, adopted a Framework for action, and established a goal to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions city-wide by 2035.

To reflect the level of ambition needed to achieve 1.5°C targets, the bar for entry to the A List has been raised. As a result, in 2021, less than one in ten cities scored by CDP (9.8% of such cities) received an A. A List cities are demonstrating their climate leadership through concerted and effective action, just as national governments were asked to do at COP26. They are taking twice as many mitigation and adaptation measures as non-A List cities and identify more than twice as many opportunities – such as the development of sustainable transport sectors and clean technology businesses – arising from the shift to a net-zero world.

Takoma Park, and the other 94 cities on this year's A List, are also celebrated for showing that urgent and impactful climate action – from ambitious emissions reduction targets to building resilience against climate change – is achievable at a global level, and in cities with different climate realities and priorities. However, this action needs to go further and faster to meet the new targets agreed to at COP26.

"In Takoma Park, we have taken the impact and threat of climate change seriously and have treated climate change as an urgent issue. In 2019, the City declared a Climate Emergency.

We've made a very public statement by declaring a Climate Emergency to pursue the necessary steps to address the global challenges, and we are willing to do our part. This City is in the process of creating a new Sustainability and Climate Action Plan. This plan will provide strategies for the City to meet its aspirational goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 100 percent by 2035.

By dedicating ourselves to aggressive actions regarding climate adaptation and resilience.

We recognize the devastating consequences of inaction. The City will serve as a leader, and we hope to inspire others to do the same."

—Mayor Kate Stewart,
City of Takoma Park



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Apryl Motley

Assistant: Sean Gossard

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BUILDING COMMUNITY

Apply for Food Stamp Benefits Today

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) formerly known as the Food Stamp Program is the largest federal nutrition assistance program. SNAP provides benefits to eligible low-income individuals and families via an Electronic Benefits Transfer card. This card can be used like a debit card to purchase eligible food in authorized retail food stores. SNAP benefits can ease some of the

tough choices many households have to make, like deciding between food and housing, medicine, or bills. You can apply by calling one of the organizations listed.

- **Montgomery County DHHS - Silver Spring Center** - 240-777-3100
- **Montgomery County DHHS - TESS Center** - 240-773-8260
- **Maryland Hunger Solutions** - 1-866-821-5552

Resources Available for Takoma Park Residents

In response to the great need in our community, the Department of Housing and Community Development has put together a list of resources available to residents. Our staff is available to assist you. You can email us at housing@takomaparkmd.gov or call 301-891-7119 for help.

Eviction prevention and past due utility bills

- Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
 - 240-777-0311 or call 311
- Ministries United Silver Spring Takoma Park (MUSST)
 - Musst@verizon.net

Legal Assistance

- Maryland Legal Aid – Montgomery County Office
 - Telephone: 240-314-0373

Foreclosure assistance

- Free Foreclosure Brief Legal Advice
 - Civil Justice, Inc. Helpline – 443-808-0076 (no income restrictions)

- Maryland Legal Aid
- Foreclosure Assistance Project – 888-213-3320

Return of security deposit

Takoma Park Residents Only

- Department of Housing and Community Development
 - housing@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7119

IRS disputes and payment agreement

- Catholic University of America Community Legal Services
 - 202-319-6788

Medical insurance for the uninsured

- Maryland Health Connection
 - 855-642-8572 or 270-777-1815

Homeowners at risk of tax sale

- Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland
 - 443-703-3052



New Bus Shelters Popping Up Around Town

Have you noticed the new bus shelters around Takoma Park? The City is working to encourage bus ridership and make bus stops in Takoma Park accessible, safe, and comfortable. To achieve this goal, the City added new bus shelters in the Fall to five stops with high daily ridership.

Here are the locations of the new bus shelters:

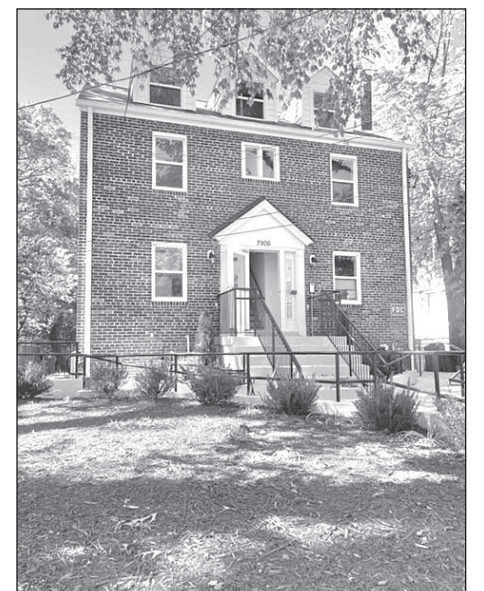
- Flower Ave & Houston Ave. (two)
- New Hampshire Ave & Holton Lane
- Maple Ave & Grant Ave.
- Maple Ave & Hilltop Rd.

The shelters structures are in place, but the installation process is still underway. Due to supply shortages, some of the installed bus shelters are missing glass side panels. Once the City receives the needed materials, the bus shelters will be completed.

NCCF and City Celebrate Opening of New Affordable Housing Property

The National Center for Children and Families (NCCF) opened its first affordable housing property at 7906 Flower Avenue in the City of Takoma Park. A ribbon cutting was held on November 16, 2021, to showcase the completely renovated nine-unit apartment building. Joining the festivities was County Executive, Marc Elrich, Mayor Kate Stewart, Ward 5 Councilmember Jarrett Smith, and NCCF Executive Director, Dr. Sheryl Brissett Chapman.

These refurbished units will serve a mix of families, who earn at least 50 percent below Montgomery County's median household income and who need permanent affordable housing with easy access to excellent schools, transportation, commuter routes, and employment opportunities. It is the mission of the NCCF to create total, healthy living environments for vulnerable children, youth and families, and the quality of life, which empowers their ability to thrive and demonstrate responsibility. NCCF's goal is to empower the larger community to ensure that all its



7906 Flower Avenue

children, youth and families receive the resources they need to become successful and contributing members.

Rental Housing License Renewal

All rental housing license holders with licenses expiring on December 31, 2021, have been notified of the renewal process. The licensing fee for annual and biennial licenses renewed for, or initiated in, 2021 is \$116 per unit. If you have questions about the renewal of your rental housing license or the process of obtaining a new rental housing license, please contact the City at housing@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7119.



Experience Poetry, Film, and History at the Community Center

Please join us for these free upcoming events in the *Takoma Park Arts* cultural series at the Takoma Park Community Center at 7500 Maple Avenue. The events are organized by the City of Takoma Park's Arts and Humanities Division. You can find more info and sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at takomaparkmd.gov/arts.

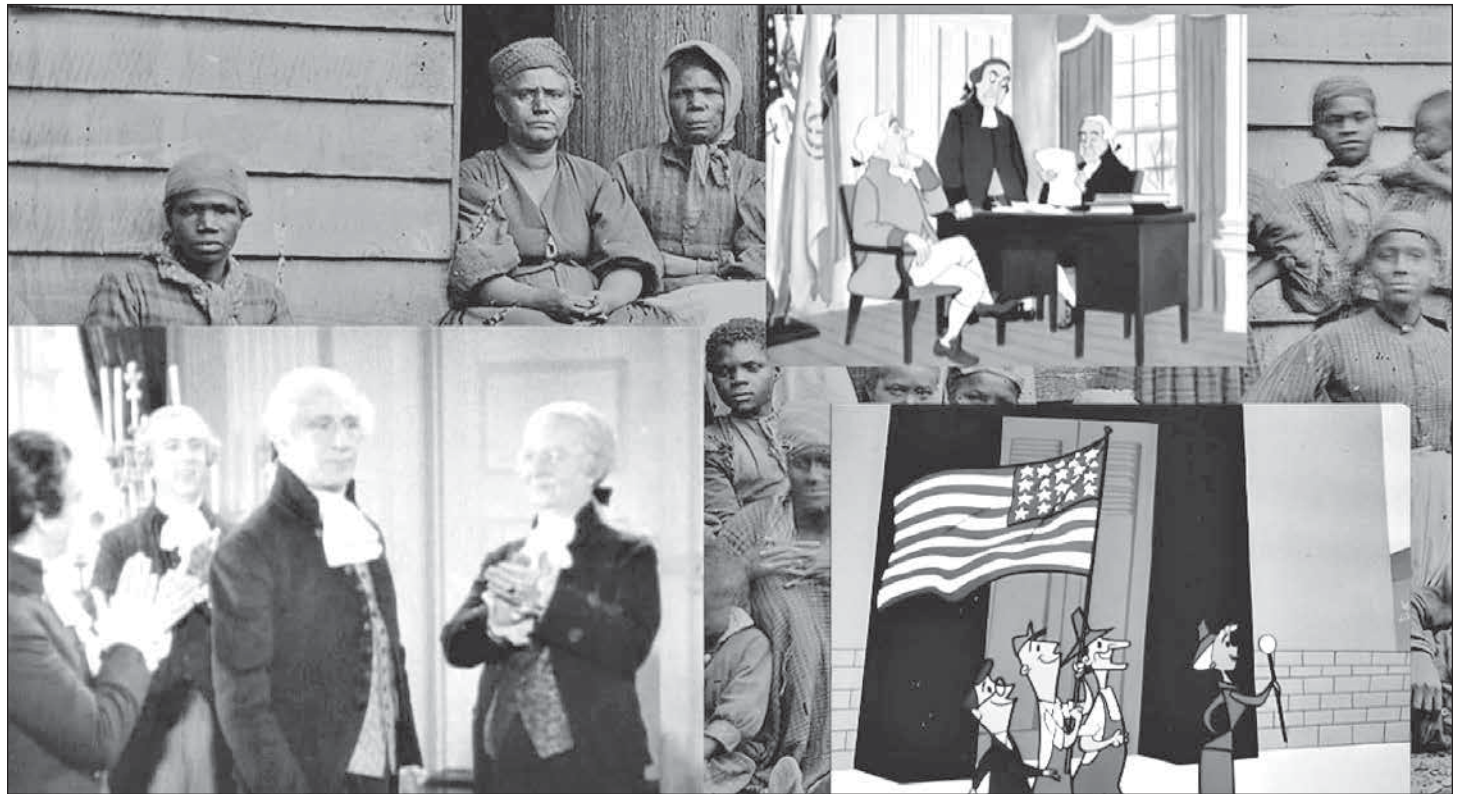
The Poetry of Migration Poetry Reading

Thursday, Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m.

Three local poets, who emigrated to the United States, will share their poetry and their experiences as strangers in a new land where they feel the contrasting tug between assimilation and cultural heritage. The poets include Indran Amirthanayagam, Luz Stella Mejía and Jose Monge.

Indran Amirthanayagam will read his poems, which focus on the experiences, dilemmas, and dreams of the migrant. He was born in Colombo, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and writes in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole. He has published 20 poetry books, including the just-released *Blue Window*, *The Migrant States*, and *The Elephants of Reckoning*, winner of the 1994 Paterson Poetry Prize. He edits the *Beltway Poetry Quarterly* and co-directs Poets & Writers Studio International.

Luz Stella Mejía is a writer, editor, and marine biologist, a profession she practiced in Colombia until she moved to the United States. She has published two books of poetry, *Etimológicas* and *Palabras sumergidas*, which won honorable mention for the Savannah International Festival Special Award in 2019. She is an editor in her publishing house Tessellata, and she collects Spanish-language books to share with the Hispanic community in



Vintage Movie Night: Whitewashing American History

Credit: Richard Hall

the D.C. area.

Vladimir Monge grew up in El Salvador and attended the University of El Salvador and the National University of Costa Rica where he studied education sciences. His poetry books include *Pasajeros en el Tiempo/Passengers in Time* and *Voces y Huellas*. He is the coordinator of a local group of Latin American migrant poets called Colectivo Literario Alta Hora de la Noche.

In the decades leading up to the Civil War, free Black children and adults in the North were kidnapped and sold into enslavement in the South.

The Reverse Underground Railroad Lecture

Thursday, Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m.

In celebration of Black History Month, University of Maryland history professor Richard Bell will share the little-known and horrific history of the "Reverse Underground Railroad." In the decades leading up to the Civil War, free Black children and adults in the North were kidnapped and sold into enslavement in the South. Solomon Northup, the author of *12 Years a Slave*, was one of just thousands of Black people who lost their freedom at the hands of unscrupulous kidnappers, who

could earn large sums for trafficking Black people to slave traders in the South.

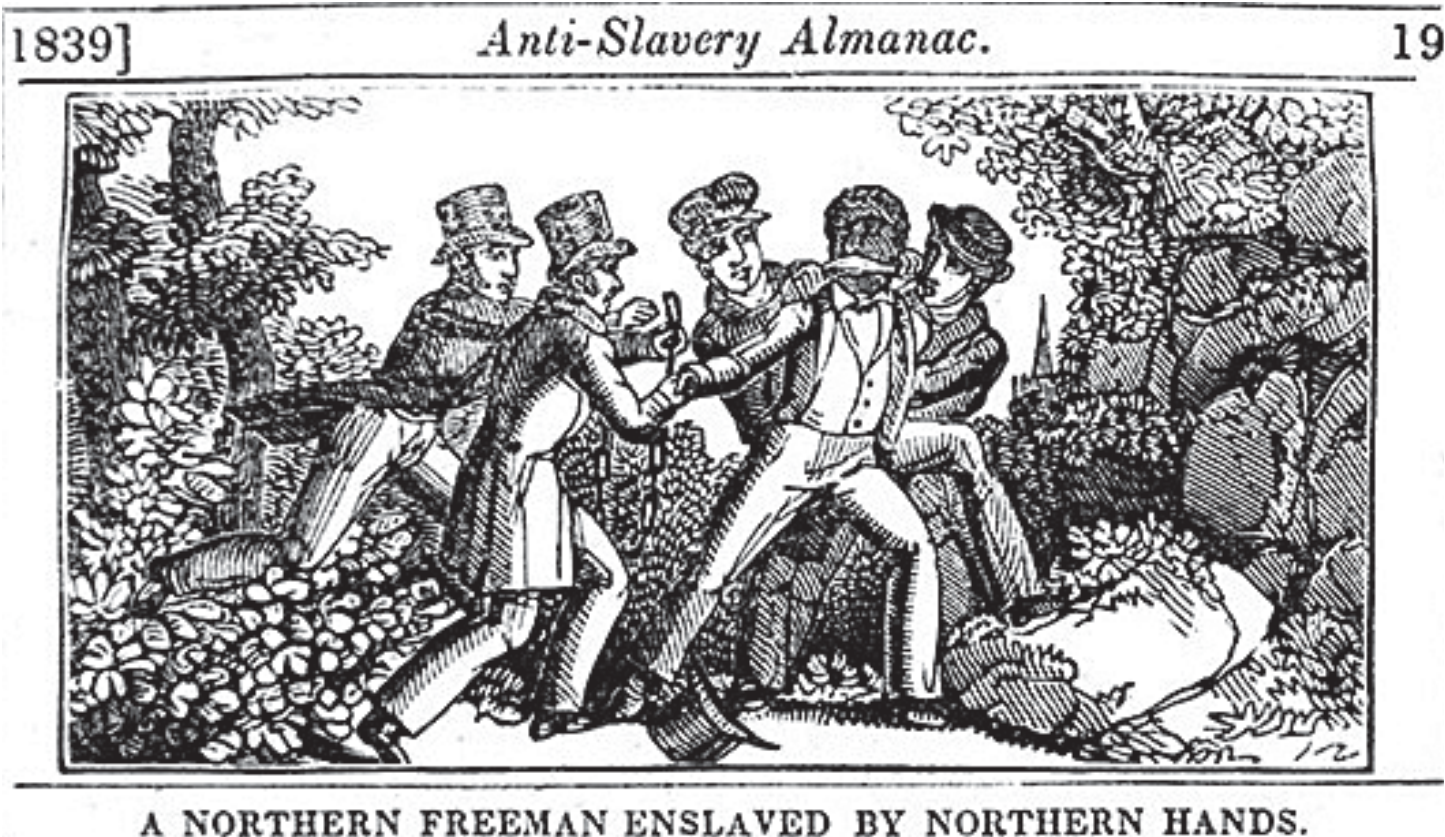
In an engaging lecture, Bell will talk about the history of the Reverse Underground Railroad, which he researched for his book *Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped into Slavery and Their Astonishing Odyssey Home*. It is the true story of five Black boys, who were kidnapped in Philadelphia in 1825 and smuggled into slavery in the Deep South, and their daring attempt to escape and bring their captors to justice.

Lured onto a small ship in Philadelphia with the promise of food and pay, the boys were instead met with blindfolds, ropes, and knives. Over four long months, their kidnappers drove them overland into the Cotton Kingdom in the South to be sold as slaves. Determined to resist, the boys formed a tight brotherhood as they struggled to free themselves and find their way home.

Vintage Movie Night: Whitewashing American History

Thursday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m.

In another *Takoma Park Arts* event celebrating Black History Month, archival film enthusiast and filmmaker Richard Hall will share his curated selection of mid-20th century classroom film clips from an era when slavery, African Americans, and Native Americans were almost never seen or heard. As state legislatures consider and pass new education laws now that are reactions against a true accounting of America's racist past and present, take a journey back in time to see how it was in the *not-so-good-old days* when filmmakers and educators erased the history of minority groups and celebrated white founders and pioneers.



RECREATION

Full listing of winter classes available in the Winter 2022 City Guide arriving with the January newsletter

TOTS

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, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Starting January 29
\$55

YOUTH

ART

Valentine's Day Gift Making Workshop

Create brightly colored heart shaped ornaments, boxes and other keepsakes for family and friends over two Saturday mornings. Instructor: Caroline MacKinnon
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Art Studio
6 & Up
Saturdays, 10–11 a.m.
January 29 & March 12
Resident: \$30 / Non-resident: \$40



CAMP & EXTENDED CARE

Fun Days

Fun Days are offered on specific days when Montgomery County Public Schools are not in session. The program is designed to provide recreational activities for children enrolled in Kindergarten through Fifth grade. Through structured, socially distanced activities, crafts and presenters, there are opportunities for socializing, unwinding, and releasing energy. Participants will meet at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Must bring masks, a lunch, snacks and labeled water bottle. Activities and performers are subject to change. **Registration is required. You can sign up for one day or all.** Space is limited, sign up early. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of the program.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
5–12 years
Monday, January 24
Tuesday, February 1
Friday, April 1
Monday, May 2
8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Resident: \$50 / Non-resident: \$60

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CITY RESIDENTS

Scholarships that were approved for 2021 will expire at the end of December 2021. If you would like to continue receiving the discounted rates toward future enrollments, be sure to reapply for 2022. And if you haven't applied before, now is the time! Visit takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/recreation-scholarships/ or stop by our office to receive a copy of the application.



Winter Break Camp - Ice Ages

Come explore the Ice Ages! This winter break is set to be a whole lot of fun. Campers will have the opportunity to add some excitement to their break with games, group activities, and crafts. Participants must bring masks, a lunch, snacks and labeled water bottle. Registration is required. Space is limited; sign up early. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of camp. **There will be no program on Friday, December 31, 2021.** AM/PM care will be available for an additional fee.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
5–12 years
4 Day Session
Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
December 27–December 30
Resident: \$140 / Non-resident: \$160
Before Care: 7–9 a.m.
After Care: 4–6 p.m.
Resident: \$40 / Non-resident: \$50 each

DANCE

Ballet & Stretch

A beginning ballet class that focuses on stretching strategies using ballet foundations. Participants will learn ballet terminology, ballet technique and balancing. Instructor: Charonne Butler
Virtual
5–11 years
Saturdays, 10:30–11:15 a.m.
January 29–March 19
Resident: \$35 / Non-resident: \$45



Hip-Hop Dance

Join this virtual Hip Hop Dance Class that focuses on fitness and rhythm. Plus, you get to have lots of fun. These family-friendly moves invite you to bring a friend to create, dance and move virtually anywhere. Instructor: Charonne Butler



Virtual
5–11 years
Saturdays, 11:30–12:15 p.m.
January 29–March 19
Resident: \$35 / Non-resident: \$45

TEENS

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.
January 27–February 24
Resident: \$55 / Non-resident: \$65

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Power Hour

Take advantage of our homework power hour focusing on academic support. We are the perfect balance of academics and fun. Students are given quiet time to complete homework or to read. Staff is available to assist and can review the completed assignments. Registration is not required.
Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Monday–Thursday, 3:30–4:30 p.m.
Free

Youth Summer Employment Program Interest Meeting

Join us at the SYEP Interest Meeting and learn about this eight-week program, which will begin June 27 and will end August 20, 2022. The City of Takoma Park is pleased to announce the return of the City's Summer Youth Employment Program. The purpose of the Summer Youth Employment Program

is to provide young people with a summer-long adventure that is more than just a job, but a true learning experience. There are a limited number of meaningful employment opportunities available this year. To register for the Interest Workshop or to find out more information, visit our website at www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation or call 301-891-7290. Takoma Park Community Center
Azalea Room
7500 Maple Avenue
16–21 years
Friday, March 11
6–8 p.m.

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
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Mondays, 3:45 p.m.–4:45 p.m.
January 31–April 4
Resident: \$20 / Non-resident: \$30

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
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Wednesdays, 3:45 p.m.–4:45 p.m.
February 8–April 5
Resident: \$20 / Non-resident: \$30

Commit 2 B Fit

Get your yoga mat and water bottles and join us Saturday mornings at 11:30 a.m. for a fun and energized session to work out and get fit. Limited spaces available, registration required. For more information, please contact Leicia Monfort at leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov.
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
January 29–April 2
Resident: \$20 / Non-resident: \$30

RECREATION □ Page 7

WINTER CLASS REGISTRATION

- Residents with an approved scholarship can begin registering on 12/15/21.
- All other Residents can begin registering on 12/22/21.
- Non-residents can begin registering on 12/29/21.
- On all three dates, registration opens at 9 a.m. in person at our office as well as online via ActiveNet.



Snow Angels Snow Removal Program Returns This Winter

In 2015 the Snow Angels was organized through Lifelong Takoma and the City of Takoma Park to assist the elderly and disabled who can't do the heavy lifting of snow removal themselves. Led by program coordinator Bryan Goehring, the volunteer students of the Difference Makers club at the Takoma Park Middle School fan out across the City of Takoma Park and clear the driveways and sidewalks of more than 70 homes. The Snow Angels snow removal program for Winter 2021–2022 is currently full, but a waiting list is maintained, and any vacancies are filled from the waiting list. If you want to be added to the list, please contact Paula Lisowski at 301-891-7280 or paulal@takomaparkmd.gov.

The program has expanded to include high school and adult volunteers from the community. SSL hours are available for participating middle and high school students. During the fall season each year, Mr. Goehring puts out a request for new and returning volunteers. Unfortunately, the number of volunteers



has dwindled during the past couple of years, and this important program is in jeopardy of being cancelled. The program is desperately in need of more volunteers. Your help will make a tremendous impact on the community. If you are interested in volunteering, please go to <https://bit.ly/snowangels2021-22>, email snowangels@difference-makers.org, or call 301-233-1698.

RECREATION

Full listing of winter classes available in the Winter 2022
City Guide arriving with the January newsletter

RECREATION

■ From page 6

ADULT

ART

Make a Tile-Paint a Tile

This class will be making tiles and decorating bought bisque tiles. The tiles will be made and designed of flowers or leaves or lace pressed into the clay. Many objects can be used; it's the student's choice. The bisque tiles will be painted, stamped and/or stenciled. The instructor will have many of these to be used. The tiles will be fired and glazed, and colorful permanent tiles will be taken home. There will be a \$10 materials fee that will be due to the instructor on the first day of class for clay, boards, glazes, and bisque tiles. Instructor: Alice Sims
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Art Studio
16 & Up
Saturdays, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.
February 12-March 12
Resident: \$20 / Non-resident: \$30
Materials Fee: \$10



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. Instructor: Caroline MacKinnon
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Art Studio
16 & Up



Saturdays, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

January 28-March 4

Resident: \$140 / Non-resident: \$160

Materials Fee: \$35

FITNESS

Afrobeat/Afro-Ndombolo Dance Class

A contemporary Afro Dance company specializing in African dancing, Zuri Sana'a DanXercise's mission is to bring you joy and memories through the art of dance. Zuri Sana'a DanXercise combines hip hop, salsa, dancehall, and contemporary and African dance moves within our choreography to create a memorable workout experience. Our moves are feasible and suitable for all ages. Participants will be able to shred calories and learn fun choreography all in one class. Instructor: Khady N'Diaye
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
16 & Up
Thursdays, 7–8 p.m.
January 27-March 31
Resident: \$60 / Non-resident: \$70



Body Works Plus Abs

Body Works Plus Abs is a toning exercise where you tone in a high repetition, light dumbbell workout, that will take you through a variety of exercises while you move to the beat of the music. This class improves muscle tone, posture, balance and strength. It is a true total body workout. Participants will need to bring light dumbbells and exercise mats to the class. Instructor: Akou Basse
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
16 & Up
Fridays, 6–7 p.m.
January 28-March 4
Resident: \$60 / Non-resident: \$70



Iyengar Yoga for Beginners (Hybrid)

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



This class will be offered as a hybrid. You can attend the class in-person or via Zoom.com on the same day at the same time.

Takoma Park Community Center/Virtual
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Ave
16 & Up
Wednesdays 6–7:15 p.m.
January 26-March 30
Resident: \$120 / Non-resident: \$140
Drop-In: \$15

Moonlight Qi Gong II

Moonlight Qi Gong enhances the quiet, gentle, peaceful yin side of our energy in the winter months, balancing the warm, active, bright sunlight yang energy. These six beautiful movement forms strengthen and align the body and focus the mind, reducing stress and tension while bringing the body and mind together in the breath. No experience necessary. Instructor: Patrick Smith
Virtual
18 & Up
Tuesdays, 7–7:30 p.m.
January 25-March 15
Resident: \$25 / Non-resident: \$35



Piloxing

Piloxing is a non-stop, HIIT fusion workout of strengthening boxing, lengthening Pilates, and exhilarating dance moves to keep your pulse high and your spirits higher. Piloxing uniquely blends the power, speed, and agility of boxing with high-energy dance sequences and the targeted sculpting and flexibility of Pilates. Instructor: Shenandoah Sowash
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Ave
16 and up
6 Week Session
Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.
Starting January 29
\$60

See article
on page 7

RECREATION □ Page 9

WINTER CLASS REGISTRATION

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- Non-residents can begin registering on 12/29/21.
- On all three dates, registration opens at 9 a.m. in person at our office as well as online via ActiveNet.



Introducing Shenandoah Sowash: Q&A

Shenandoah Sowash has joined the Recreation Department, teaching Piloxing at the Takoma Park Recreation Center. Piloxing will be held on Saturday mornings, 9 to 10 a.m. Shenandoah is also a Zumba and Barre instructor. She is a trained dancer specializing in classical ballet, modern, tap and jazz. Let's learn more about Shenandoah.

Q: Tell us a little bit about your background. (How long have you been living in Takoma Park and what do you like about this city?)

A: I lived in Takoma Park when I first moved to the DMV in 2008. I later lived in DC for several years, and last year I bought a house in Takoma Park. I'm proud of our city's free spirit and diversity. The International Corridor is a treasure!

Q: How did you become interested in fitness?

A: I was a dancer for a long time, but over the years I fell out of practice and didn't take very good care of myself. I ended up gaining 55 pounds and smoked a pack a day for 10 years. I went through some major life changes and randomly took a Piloxing class, which



Piloxing instructor Shenandoah Sowash with students from her classes

changed my life. I loved the energy and enthusiasm, and I never got bored! I lost the weight through a combination of Piloxing and changing my diet. Everyone deserves the opportunity to exercise and feel better.

Q: Why do you think it is important for people to work out during the pandemic?

A: I read a while ago that, "You are one workout away from a good mood." Given the immense stresses of the pandemic and everything that has come with it, spending even one hour a week exercising can have a huge impact on

one's physical and mental health. Exercise keeps me positive, challenged, and inspired.

Q: What can people expect to get from taking your class?

A: An inclusive, fun-loving environment. I prioritize safety and fun. In terms of the format, we interval train boxing, Pilates, and dance. The boxing challenges our cardiovascular system, the Pilates lengthens and strengthens our muscles, and the dance weaves it all together and keeps us from taking ourselves too seriously.

Q: How do you know when you had a successful class?

A: When I see participants smiling and enjoying themselves while also working hard. Here's what some former participants have said about me: "Shen is the most welcoming, inclusive, and kind instructor I have had in DC, and her classes have kept me sane during the pandemic! Give them a try if you're looking to move your body and have so much fun!" and "Shen is a fierce and fun-loving instructor. She's encouraging and pushes us just the right amount."

Q: What other hobbies or interests do you have besides fitness?

A: I'm also a writer and musician. I'm currently finishing my first book, and I sing, play piano and ukulele, and perform with the Thomas Circle Singers.

Q: When people sign up for your class, what equipment do they need to bring?

A: All you need is a mat, water bottle, and an open attitude!

Please join Shenandoah this winter at the Takoma Park Recreation Center for an energetic and fun Piloxing class!

LIBRARY



Director's Column

Getting Cozy with Books

By Jessica Jones

Hygge is a term that we love in the library. It's a Danish word that means "a form of everyday togetherness" (Linnet, 2010) and connotes a sense of belonging and coziness and comfort.

The days are shorter now. It's dark a lot. We're coming up on the Winter Solstice and the shortest day of the year, and sometimes that just feels physically and mentally difficult. To compound things, this pandemic is still affecting how we can gather as a community.

This feels like a good time to think about how we can create a sense of *hygge* for ourselves – to find belonging and coziness and comfort. Finding your *hygge* will be different for everyone, but I do believe books and stories can be a great tool to get there. Here are some ways to find *hygge* at the library:

Read a series. Few things pain me more as a reader than finishing a really good book and not having a sequel to turn to. Starting a series can be a good way to find stability in a setting or dig into long-term relationships with characters you come to love. Can escapism be comforting? I think so. How much Tana French did I read last winter? All of it.

Reread. Turning to old favorites means that you know the time you set aside to read will be enjoyable. Every few years I revisit *His Dark Materials* (Philip Pullman) and find new things to love. Also, Pullman and other fantasy writers do such a good job of worldbuilding that it's easy to imagine yourself as part of that world for a little while.

Cozy mysteries. This feels obvious, but cozy mysteries are, indeed, pretty cozy. According to Book Riot, "the cozy mystery



genre began with Agatha Christie's Miss Marple series, which follows a sharp elderly woman as she solves murder cases in her small English village." Since cozies aren't gruesome or graphic, they can be a great choice if you are working on being a little gentler with yourself, but you still want to read a

whodunit.

Take your time browsing our shelves. I may be biased, but I find being physically surrounded by books to be very comforting. It's a whole sensory experience between the cover art, the ambient noise being absorbed by the paper, the texture of the pages – and did you know that the compound that makes old books smell so good is related to vanillin? It's all very grounding.

Create a cozy environment for reading. You know that video of the fireplace on Netflix and YouTube? Find an unstructured hour, queue up the virtual fireplace (preferably where you can hear the gentle crackling of the burning logs), settle in, and dive into your book. Or, if you're listening to an audiobook, try a simultaneous low-key activity, like sketching or knitting or things you love to do that keep your hands busy without requiring too much concentration. Bonus points for having a hot beverage of your choice ready to go.

Consider this a reminder to take your vitamin D (hopefully in the form of some stolen sunshine), give yourself permission to seek out and enjoy good things, and find your *hygge* this season.

Work Cited: Linnet, J. T. (2010). *Interweavings: A cultural phenomenology of everyday consumption and social atmosphere within Danish middle-class families*. Syddansk Universitet. Det Samfundsvidenskabelige Fakultet.

Listen to This!

By Kati Nolfi, Children's Librarian

Comfort Food

Feeding kids and feeding yourself is a dance, and it's not always pretty. Enter Virginia Sole-Smith and Amy Palanjian. Between them they have five children. Their conversations cover the tyranny of meal planning, picky eaters, why you shouldn't freak out about Halloween candy, the pros and cons of family dinners, and other very important topics.

I find this podcast to be a gentle introduction to HAES (Health At Every Size.) The podcasters themselves have evolved



to embrace a less fearful and judgmental attitude about food. A lot of media that purports to help parents and caregivers actually triggers and exacerbates anxiety. *Comfort Food's* content and presentation is mostly relatable rather than aspirational.

Comfort Food took a permanent hiatus at the beginning of the pandemic, but the episodes are available and still relevant. And if you like what you hear, Virginia puts out a fantastic newsletter called Burnt Toast with an occasional audio segment, and both podcasters can be found online.

Hours and Calendar

Library hours are:
Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday-Sunday 12 – 6 p.m.

Computer Center hours are:
Monday-Thursday 12 – 8 p.m.
Friday-Sunday 12 – 6 p.m.

Masks are required for all indoor activities, and we are asking patrons to limit their time in the library building. For those who prefer not to come indoors, Books-to-Go and Books-to-You are continuing, and the book return bin is still open at all times.

The library will be closed for the holidays from December 23 through December 26 and will reopen on December 27.

CALENDAR

We're continuing to offer many 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.

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. 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.

Online Resource review

NUWAV Legal Documents

By Anne LeVeque

One of the resources your library provides to you is a trove of legal forms from NUWAV Legal Documents. Please note the following:

First, the legal documents provided through our website are not a substitute for professional legal advice.

Second, for rental housing, Takoma Park has its own forms. (takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/rental-housing)

With those disclaimers out of the way, let's dive in. From the library website, click on "online," then on "research," and then on "legal forms." You will be asked to enter your library card number at this point, and then you will be taken to the NUWAV home page. If you are having trouble with your library card, please contact the library, but keep in mind that we do not give out card numbers over the phone.

The categories covered are estate planning, real estate (note the disclaimer at the beginning of this article!), business, civil, family, personal finance, U.S. courts, and more. Browse through the categories to find what you need or use the search function. Once you find it and open the document, you will see an auto-fill form. You can put in the information, or if you want to see what the document looks like without your specific information, just click on "Preview." You can preview at any time, even if the form is partially filled out.

There are some categories in which the

forms are on another site, and you are redirected. Many of the immigration forms, and a few others under the U.S. Courts heading, are links to government sites.

The "More" category is interesting. It has three sub-categories, public assistance, public information requests, and social contracts. Public assistance contains many external links to agencies and non-governmental organizations at the state and federal levels. Public information requests has forms for requesting school records, federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, including FBI and CIA records requests, and Maryland Public Records requests. Under social contracts there are some useful documents for parents of teens including agreements covering cellphone use, gaming, homework, social media, and teen driving.

If you would like to be able to save your documents and work on them later, you can register your email address and create a password. That way, you won't lose work that you've spent lots of time on if you're interrupted or run out of time. Just click "Save to Cloud" when you have the document open.

The forms provided are specific to Maryland; if you need forms for another jurisdiction, you may have to go to a library in that jurisdiction or consult an attorney. NUWAV does not have forms for DC or Virginia.

This resource is valuable for everyday transactions. It can be daunting for anything more complex; the "Small Claims" section has a 28-page set of instructions!

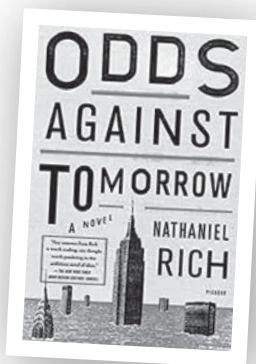


Friends Book Group to *Read Odds Against Tomorrow*

The Friends Book Group will discuss *Odds Against Tomorrow* by Nathaniel Rich in January 2022 at a time and location to be announced later. *Odds Against Tomorrow* will kick off a discussion series on Cli-Fi or Climate Fiction. Cli-Fi has been defined as “fiction... that features a changed or changing climate.”

While like Sci-Fi in exploring the future in writing, many examples of Cli-Fi include realistic scenarios taken from contemporary sources and make use of fantasy or the supernatural. In addition to a work of fiction, each Cli-Fi discussion will include a poem that could be considered a part of the Cli-Fi genre. *Odds Against Tomorrow* will be paired with “Darkness” by Lord Byron.

Rich’s second novel, *Odds Against Tomorrow*, follows Mitchell Zukor, an employee of FutureWorld. The business uses Mitchell’s



skill to formulate doomsday scenarios to profit from these events when they might actually happen. Eventually, a nightmare event does occur, and Mitchell is forced to reconcile his gifts with the travail brought on by man and nature.

Writing in *The New York Times Book Review*, Teddy Wayne said, “Any sentence from Rich is worth reading, any thought worth pondering in this ambitious novel of ideas about the way we die now.”

If you are interested in joining the discussion and you do not receive Friends Book Group announcements, write to ftpmlbookgroup@gmail.com for details on joining. Copies of *Odds Against Tomorrow* can be borrowed from the library; an audiobook version is available on Hoopla, the library’s e-book, and audiobook service. “Darkness” is available online or you may request a copy from ftpmlbookgroup@gmail.com.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

■ From page 3

for the Takoma-Langley Crossroads Center, which is undergoing a significant upgrade for the businesses’ facades.

In addition, the City completed **Community Engagement for the Takoma Park Recreation Center** and will be moving forward with plans for the site in 2022.

Looking forward, 2022 will be an exciting year for the City. We will:

- Continue to work to address the impact of COVID-19 on businesses and residents and focus on how best to allocate the federal funds to become a Resilient Takoma Park post-COVID. Join us on January 12, 2022, for the Council work session and presentation from staff.
- Begin construction and renovation of the library!
- Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Unification of the City in July 2022.
- Continue plans for the renovation of the New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center.

tion of the New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center.

- Advance priorities and continue to implement:
 - Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan
 - Climate Emergency Response Framework
 - Race Equity Framework
 - Recommendations on Reimagining Public Safety
- And so much more!!!

This time of year, my family observes Advent, and each Sunday evening in the weeks leading up to Christmas, we light a candle in our Advent wreath. When my children were younger, they wrote this poem that we recite when lighting the candles each week:

- On the 1st week I have hope.
- On the 2nd week I have love.
- On the 3rd week I have joy.
- On the 4th week, I wish for peace for all, through winter, spring, summer, and fall.

As we enter the final weeks of 2021, I wish you all hope, love, joy, and peace for the coming year.

—Mayor Stewart

RECREATION

■ From page 7

Spirit Group Fitness - Starting back in-person!

Functional Fitness class for all abilities. Spirit Fitness invites participants with and without developmental disabilities. Class format focuses on functional fitness to improve and maintain ability to easily complete daily living activities. Instructor: Spirit Club Takoma Park Community Center
Lilac Room
7500 Maple Ave
16 & Up
Wednesdays, 7–8 p.m.
January 26-March 30
Free

Yassa

Yassa means joy. Yassa is designed to get your heart rate up and boost your cardio endurance while having tons of fun and enjoying international music. Yassa is fun, energetic and most of all keeps you in great shape, let Yassa! Instructor: Akou Basse
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Ave
16 and up
6 Week Session
Wednesdays, 6:45–7:45 p.m.
Starting January 26
\$60

Zumba

Zumba is a fitness program that combines Latin and international music with danced moves. Zumba routines incorporate interval training, alternating fast and slow rhythms to help improve cardiovascular fitness. No equipment needed for this class. Instructor: Akou Basse
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
16 & Up
Saturdays, 10:15–11:15 a.m.
January 29-March 5
Resident: \$65 / Non-Resident: \$75

New Instructor!

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Writing Life Stories

Do you want to share important life experiences through your writing? Our stories are part of what makes us human. Whether you are a lifelong writer or a beginner, this class is for you. I will help you to jump-start your memories, organize your ideas, and edit your work. We use the book



Writing the Memoir by Judith Barrington. Bring a notebook to each class and be ready to have fun!
Instructor: Barbara Rosenblatt

Virtual
18 & Up
Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.
January 26-March 16
Resident: \$90 / Non-resident: \$100

MULTIMEDIA

Taming Your Digital Photos

This class will show you how to save, organize, restore, and share family photos. You probably have printed photographs in albums and boxes, as well as taken with a smart phone or a digital camera. Do you know where your photos are, when and where they were taken? We will review basic digital editing on photos taken with a digital camera, including your smart phone. Smart phones can improve the exposure, contrast, and color. More advanced editing is possible with Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop. The instructor has a special interest in restoring old family photos.
Instructor: Barry Hinderstein
Takoma Park Community Center
Multi Media Lab
7500 Maple Avenue
18 & Up
Tuesdays, 7–9 p.m.
January 25-March 15
Resident: \$25 / Non-resident: \$35

55+

DROP-IN

Game Room Open Play

The game room is available for adults aged 55 and older to play pool, table tennis, basketball arcade and other active games.
Takoma Park Community Center
Game Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 & Up
Ongoing
Mondays: 9 a.m.–11:45 a.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturdays: 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Free

Basketball Open Play

Don't worry about the cold weather and join your neighbors and friends for basketball practice. Drop-in; no registration is required. A free senior fitness pass is required.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Gymnasium
55 & Up
Thursdays, 12–2 p.m.
Free with pass



Walking Group

Don't worry about the cold weather and join your neighbors and friends for indoor lap walking. Drop-in, no registration is required. A free senior fitness pass is required.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Gymnasium
55 & Up
Tuesdays, 1:15–2 p.m.
Free with pass

Keep a towel and water bottle nearby. Registration is required for this virtual zoom class. Instructor: Michael Williams
Virtual
55 & Up
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11 a.m.
January 25-March 24
\$5

Enhance Your Fitness

A great total body workout using low-impact aerobic movement and gentle resistance training, this class focuses on increasing strength, balance, and flexibility through stretching, breathing, core training and proper posture alignment using standing and seated exercises including warm-up and cool down routines. Registration is required for this virtual zoom class. Instructor: Adriene Buist
Virtual
55 & Up
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Room
Tuesdays, 8:45–9:45 a.m.
January 25-March 22
\$5



EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Computer Skills for Seniors

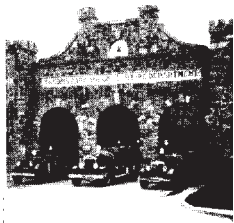
This class will offer instruction in basic computer skills including email, safe internet browsing, sending, and receiving photos, using word processing applications and more. A current Takoma Park Maryland Library card is required to access the computers and participate in this class. Limit 4 spaces. Instructor: Anne LeVeque
Takoma Park Community Center
Computer Room A
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Wednesdays, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
January 26-February 16
\$5

FITNESS

Foundational Fitness

The program is designed to enhance strength; decrease fall risks; increase physical fitness level; improve cardiovascular capacity and range of motion and enhance general sense of well-being. Class utilizes a high back chair, light hand weights and/or a resistance tube. Equipment is not provided.





THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of November 30, 2021, 47 people have died in fires compared to 46 in 2020.

Hot vehicle deaths

As of November 30, 2021, 23 children have died in hot vehicles across the country. Grand total to 906 since 1998. As the driver, it's your responsibility when you leave your vehicle, check the back seat and everyone goes with you.

No Christmas tree sale this year

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department will not be able to sell Christmas trees this year. The department's

supplier farm experienced a setback, and the remaining new trees need time to grow.

Holiday decorating fire safety tips

- Be careful with holiday decorations.
- Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.
- Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

Source: National Fire Protection Association

Happy Holidays 2021: Are You Ready?

By Claudine Schweber, co-chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee

and talk with you about safety. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcfrs-info/firesafety.html

We've reached the time of year when the answer to AC/DC's 1990 musical interrogative — Are you ready for a good time? Are you, are you ready...Are you ready for a good time? — is a resounding yes. At last! you've been vaccinated, you can travel confident that your vacant house in Takoma Park will be watched; that you can host friends and family with meals, tree lighting, gift exchanges, music, and fun; that you have been careful in buying gifts, and yes, you have an emergency preparedness plan. Here are three important reminders to ensure the holidays are happy for you and your loved ones.



3. Shopping Online.

Yes, scammers continue to be busy, and stores may not be clear about return and refund policies. Shop with stores you trust. Go directly to the store site, not the address from X source. Type the web address in yourself rather than clicking on the link, even it's from a source you've used in the past. Use a credit card instead of Debit card. There are more protections with credit cards, and the money isn't instantly taken from your bank account. If you have two credit cards, use one for onsite shopping only and a different one for online shopping. In case of a credit breach or abuse of your online card, you would still have the onsite card. This also gives you an easy way to track your online purchases on one statement. For more holiday shopping tips, visit www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2021/11/looking-alternatives-your-holiday-shopping?utm_source=govdelivery

As we've reminded you throughout this past year, being prepared prevents being scared:

- Confirm/update your contact list. Are the people on it still available? Is there at least one local and one out of area person?
- Do you have a current medical list, and do the contact persons have it? Includes doctors, medications, special needs.
- Are persons with disabilities aware of resources, and do you have their contacts?

Note: Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing can text 911.

(Learn more at www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/what-you-need-know-about-text-911. If text-to-911 is not available, use a TTY or a telecommunications relay service, if possible.)

It's easy to contact us at tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7126. Join us for Talk of Takoma WOWD/LP radio 94.3, for "Dear Beatrice Prepared" on the first Sunday of each month.

1. Vacant House Check and Care Programs.

You are on the road again. Your house is empty. Did you register with the vacant house check program? If you are away 4–30 days, contact the Takoma Park Police, who will do a daily house check to make sure no one has tampered with windows, doors, set a ladder against an outside wall, etc. If someone is picking up your mail or newspapers, let the TTPD know. Contact the department in advance 301-270-1100. Takoma Park also has a program for residents who are alone or have special needs. Registered residents call the department each day between 12–5 pm. If they don't call, they will be called by the police department. If there is no answer, a patrol officer will be sent to check on their welfare. For more information about both programs, visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/services-and-programs.

2. **Fire Safety.** You are hosting guests and are very excited to cook, have lighted candles and sing lots of songs. Oh uh! If any of these lights catch fire, do you know what to do? Call 911. Do not leave the area where there are lights or a stove on unattended. Why set the stage for such an emergency? Do not use lighted candles. Make sure you can open windows to let out smoke from cooking. Don't wait for a crisis. Get a Fire Safety Check from the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue. They install smoke alarms



Takoma Park Police Winter Coat Drive

Do you have coats, gloves or scarves that you don't need anymore...donate them!

PLEASE DONATE

Do you have coats, gloves, or scarves that you don't need anymore? Donate them! A box is in the lobby of TTPD, 7500 Maple Avenue, until Friday, December 17 at 4 p.m. We will ensure that they are given to those in need during and after the drive. Give warmth to those in need this winter!



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 ደረሰት የዚህ መጽሔት አርከም ራስዎ ናቸዎ በሌሎች ቋንቋዎች በመመረ ላይ ማንበብ ይቻላል ትርጉሙን በመጠቀም በ ታክማ ከተማ ውስጥ ያለውን ባህሪ ማግኘት ይቻላል። ጠቅ ከደረግን በኋላ አጽሱል አገኛህ ላይ፣ ይመልከቱ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥግ ላይ ታንባለች የአሰሳ አዋሊን ይምረጡና ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልቋይ ሳትሆን።

Winter Weather Response

As we prepare for this winter's snow and ice storms, the Public Works Department would like to provide the following information about the City's winter weather response plan. City crews are responsible for clearing 34 miles of roadways, as well as walkways and sidewalks around city parks and buildings.

For the purposes of winter roadway clearing, the City is divided into five zones. Each zone is assigned a response vehicle. Within each zone primary streets are cleared first. Those are streets with the most traffic and that connect to other streets as well as those with hills. Secondary streets are addressed next and include shorter streets as well as courts and alleys.

The City's winter weather response team includes the Public Works Right of Way staff as primary plow operators and sanitation drivers fill in the second shift. When significant snowfall occurs, city trash and recycling service may be cancelled to staff road clearing operations and to reduce possible injury for our collection crews from slip and fall accidents. The City's Vegetation Maintenance staff, with assistance as needed from temporary laborers, clear public walkways at City parks and playgrounds during daylight hours, and the building maintenance staff clear walkways around city facilities.

Stay Connected!

Announcements about a declared snow emergency and closures will be posted on Takoma Alert, local media, and the City's website, Facebook, and Twitter accounts.



City staff track potential storms as they occur and prepare to respond as soon as the snow starts to fall. Plowing operations begin once there is 1 inch of snow on the roadway. The goal is to have two (2) travelable lanes on each primary street within a 12-hour shift if the snow fall is six (6) inches or less. If the snow fall is six (6) inches or more, the goal is to have one (1) travelable lane within the 12-hour shift. Snow removal equipment remains in service around the clock until all the roads are cleared. Often, when severe weather is on the way, the City begins anti-icing procedures on the Primary Streets. If the storm produces only sleet and ice, the City treats roadways with sand and salt.

Roadway clearing on major roadways, including State Highway routes, is performed by other agencies. The State Highway Administration is responsible for clearing Carroll Avenue, Ethan Allen Avenue, New Hampshire Avenue, Philadelphia Avenue and Piney Branch Road.

Montgomery County Department of Transportation clears Sligo Creek Parkway for the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. However, as City vehicles often travel these roads to get to City streets, the City vehicles supplement the other agencies snow removal activities.

All residents are encouraged to remove vehicles from the road, if possible, when a snowstorm has been predicted. The fewer cars on the street, the easier and safer it is for plows to clear the roadways.

Please remember that removal of snow in driveways and sidewalks in front of residential or commercial property is the responsibility of the resident or property owner/manager – and is required, for safety reasons, by City law. When clearing snow from your sidewalk or driveway we ask that you pile it in a yard and not out in the street. Piles

of snow shoveled out into the street can cause problems for passing vehicles.

The City can provide special services to residents who have health issues which require them to be able to use their street to access health care. Residents need to contact the Public Works Department to notify the City of those needs. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at **301-891-7633** between 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Inclement Weather Line

Bad weather? Call the Recreation Department's Inclement Weather Line to check for weather closure information. Call 301-891-7101 ext. 5605 to check for program cancellations due to weather.

A Nonprofit Founded in Takoma Park Is Shaking up the Music Industry

By Taylor Dibbert

Born in Takoma Park, Boulanger Initiative's mission is to advocate for women and gender-marginalized composers. According to its mission statement, the nonprofit promotes "music composed by women through performance, education, research, consulting, and commissions." According to Boulanger Initiative Co-founder and Executive Director Laura Colgate, the name honors two paragons in the world of classical music. The Boulangers were from France. "We wanted to bring more recognition to the two sisters and honor them by using their name," she said.

Colgate, a Takoma Park resident, wears many hats. A concert violinist, she serves as Concertmaster of the National Philharmonic. She's a teacher, an activist and much more. Colgate earned a doctorate in violin performance from the University of Maryland. During her dissertation, she was met with an injury. Unsure if she'd ever be able to perform again, Colgate shifted her dissertation to focus more on research, as opposed to performance. During that process, she realized that – through all her work and studies – she'd never learned about any women composers. "It's just completely left out of our education system," she said. What's more, an organization dedicated to advocating for women composers didn't exist. The more she discovered these highly accomplished women, the more compelled she



Laura Colgate

felt to act.

The group's Takoma ties are strong. Several years ago, a mutual friend introduced Colgate to Joy-Leilani Garbutt. Both lived in Takoma Park at the time, and the two were introduced to each other at Takoma Beverage Company, which is sort of Boulanger Initiative's second home. Aside from Colgate and Garbutt (who moved to San Francisco in January of this year but serves on the organization's board of directors) meeting there, the organization's first big public event was held at the shop.

The Boulanger team is big. The organi-

zation currently includes eight program directors and a large leadership circle. Over the summer, the organization had eighteen interns from all over the world. "There are so many people who are passionate about women's recognition and finding a more equitable music industry," Colgate noted. Two of the organization's seven board members are Takoma Park residents.

Since the pandemic began, more and more volunteers have become paid staff members. "We're trying to be able to support our team financially," Colgate said. While many staff members are working for Boulanger Initiative on a part-time basis, Colgate mentioned that that may not always be the case. The organization was searching for office space before the pandemic hit. For now, the organization depends a lot on individual donations. With three years of fiscal reporting on the books, it's now better positioned to seek funding through larger institutional donors. Being a new nonprofit obviously brings challenges. Fundraising has been the biggest challenge. "Funding is and will always be the number one challenge," Colgate said.

Colgate is passionate about making sure that women who have fallen out of history are properly recognized. "It breaks my heart. There are so many women composers who were well known when they were alive and just fell out of the history books." She added that, over the years, the perti-

nent decision-makers have largely been white males. This dynamic has played a significant role in women composers being marginalized.

In October, the organization launched a new program called Redefining the Canon. The website notes that this "is an unprecedented initiative which aims to update the most widely-used orchestral audition excerpts to include excerpts by historically underrepresented composers." This is an important push for equity over the long-term. The organization says that "[b]y adding historically underrepresented composers to required audition repertoire lists, this national field-wide effort will serve as a catalyst for orchestras to program more inclusive and diverse works and in turn, attract a more diverse candidate pool for auditions."

Susy Cheston, a board member and longtime Takoma Park resident, said, "This is a seminal moment when the world is ready to recognize the contributions of women, but there's a knowledge gap. Boulanger Initiative is the organization that is ready at the right time to have a transformational impact by helping performers, music organizations and music educators bring to light really good music that has been neglected," Cheston said. In the coming years, Colgate sees Boulanger Initiative as a facilitator and a national hub. The organization clearly captures the spirit of Takoma: bold, progressive, and full of positive energy.

CITY CAREERS

The City of Takoma Park recruiting includes all career staff, part time or temporary staff, interns, and more. The list of open positions changes frequently, so please check takomaparkmd.gov/careers regularly for up-to-date information. The most recent available positions are:

- **Police Dispatch Supervisor** to manage the operations of the Takoma Park Police Department's Communications Center.
- **Childcare Director** to lead Morning Addition & Afternoon Addition at the Community Center and Before and After the Bell at the Rec Center
- **Crime Analyst** to collect, collate, analyze, and disseminate information related to crimes occurring in and around Takoma Park.
- **Facilities Maintenance Supervisor** to perform skilled work in the repair and maintenance of City facilities and equipment.

Applications, and details about these and other open positions can be found at takomaparkmd.gov/careers.



The City of Takoma Park is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. We strive to be a diverse workforce that is representative of the residents we serve and the area in which we live. We are dedicated to creating an inclusive environment where employees of diverse backgrounds can thrive and make a positive impact in the services we provide.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CITY RESIDENTS

Scholarships that were approved for 2021 will expire at the end of December 2021. If you would like to continue receiving the discounted rates toward future enrollments, be sure to reapply for 2022. And if you haven't applied before, now is the time! Visit takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/recreation-scholarships/ or stop by our office to receive a copy of the application.



Renters, if you are behind on rent...

1 Apply for Rental Assistance – up to \$12,000 available

Review Eligibility and document requirements at the website www.mc311.com/rentrelief

- Apply for rental assistance online at that site.
- If you need assistance in completing the application, call 311 or 240-777-0311. Landlords also can help complete applications.

2 Call a Support Organization for free help:

- CASA: 301-431-4185
- Housing Initiative Partnership: 301-916-5946
- Latino Economic Development Center: 202-540-7438
- Renters Alliance: info@rentersalliance.org

3 Steps to take if you get a court summons or judgment:

- **Call for free help to access rights and protections:**
 - Maryland Court Help Center hotline: 410-260-1392 (Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.)
 - Maryland Legal Aid: 888-465-2468
 - Homeless Persons Representation Project: 410-387-3126
- **Apply for rental assistance or update your application:**
 - If you haven't applied for rental assistance, apply at www.mc311.com/rentrelief. Include a copy or photo of your court summons or judgment (or red-and-white notice) and answer "yes" to the question asking if you have a current hearing notice from the District Court, a Court Judgment or a notice from the Sheriff's office for eviction.
 - If you already applied for rental assistance, send an update about court status to get priority. Send email to: HSS@montgomerycountymd.gov with your rent application case number and a copy or photo of your court summons or judgment (or red-and-white notice on your door).
- **Call 311 (240-777-0311) and ask for Housing Stabilization Assistance.**
- **If you are called to court → Come to court!**
 - You must appear in court to present a defense and get your paperwork from Court. Then, ask one of the organizations listed above about the next step you should take.

You cannot be forced to leave your apartment without a court order and the presence of the Sheriff. If you have questions about a notice from your landlord, call 311 (240-777-0311), Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs.

September 2021

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/renters

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Takoma Park Holiday Art Sale

Saturday, December 4, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center

The Takoma Park Holiday Art Sale will return for its 15th year. The juried sale will feature 25 vendors selling a wide range of fine art, photography, pottery, jewelry, hand-designed clothing, and other crafts. This popular event is free to the public and masks will be required. Don't miss your chance to get your holiday shopping done early!

Takoma Park Gift(ing) Market

Friday, December 10, 5 – 9 p.m.
Outdoors at 201 Ethan Allen Avenue

The Takoma Park Gift(ing) Market is a new holiday night market with a curated mix of local artists and makers, delicious food, and festive libations. Visitors may shop under the stars for holiday gifts plus enjoy dinner by the fire from local food trucks and sip cardamom and clove margaritas, mulled wine, craft beer, and hot cocoa from local businesses. mainstreettakoma.org/featured-events/tkpk-gifting-market

The Christmas Revels

December 10–12; 17–19
Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, Glen Echo, MD
\$35–55

Combining elements of a fully staged holiday play, a choral concert with sing-alongs, and centuries-old winter traditions, the Christmas Revels offers a trademark blend of professional entertainment and community engagement that reminds performers and audiences alike of the importance — and the joy — of shared celebration. This year's Christmas Revels transports audiences back to December 1870 in Washington, DC. The holidays have arrived and in the elegant parlor of Senator Hiram Rhodes Revels — the first African American to serve in the U.S. Congress

— the household is preparing for a party. To ensure a safe experience for audience, cast and crew alike, all Christmas Revels performers, staff, and volunteers are vaccinated against COVID-19. Washington Revels is requiring all audience members to show proof of full vaccination, or a negative test taken within 72 hours of their chosen performance, and all audience members must wear masks. revelsdc.org

Takoma Cocoa Crawl

Saturday, December 18, 1 – 4 p.m.

Cocoa will be flowing in Takoma at Takoma restaurants and cafes. Visitors may make one stop or many and enjoy traditional cocoa, Mexican hot chocolate, and vegan cocoa - all with or without alcohol. The Takoma Cocoa Crawl is a great time for holiday shopping. mainstreettakoma.org/featured-events/takoma-cocoa-crawl

Historic Takoma Reading Room

Sundays (first and third)
7328 Carroll Avenue

Visitors will have access to reference books on Takoma and Maryland history, the collection of Takoma Voices and City newsletters, historical journals, and more. Historic Takoma is also hosting the Maryland Reference Collection of the Takoma Park Maryland Library during the library's renovation. Historic Takoma volunteers will be available to answer questions about the collections and Historic Takoma. Reading Room hours will be 1 – 4 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of each month. historictakoma.org

Docs In Progress

Doc In Progress is offering programs ranging from beginner filmmaking and storytelling workshops to workshops for emerging filmmakers looking to polish their skills in camerawork, editing, and more. For more information, visit www.docsinprogress.org/filmmakers

THE TAKOMA PARK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.
AND
THE TAKOMA PARK POLICE DEPT.
PRESENTS:

2021 TOY DRIVE

WE WILL BE COLLECTING NEW, UNWRAPPED TOYS AND GIFT CARDS
THROUGH DECEMBER 20TH
HELP GIVE CHILDREN A BETTER HOLIDAY SEASON!
DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:
TPVFD 7201 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park
TPPD 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Lt. Cynthia Williams at:
cynthiaw@takomaparkmd.gov or (301)891-7140

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