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# TAKOMA PARK

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## County Codifies Improved Municipal Tax Reimbursement Process with Phase-In of Higher Takoma Park Payment

By Sean Gossard

On Monday, March 14, 2022 Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich signed Bill 2-22, which will reimburse incorporated cities and towns—including Takoma Park—for duplicate taxes for services like local police enforcement, crossing guards, and park and road upkeep according to agreed upon formulas.

“The codification of municipal tax duplication formulas is a long overdue request from our municipalities,” Elrich said in a statement. “This reimbursement program addresses the issue of property tax duplication since both the County and the municipality levy a property tax, but only the municipality provides that service within its jurisdiction.”

Municipalities and the County’s Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League have pushed for revisions to the tax duplication legislation going back to the 1970s and the changes in Bill 2-22 come as a ma-



Representatives from local government observe as Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich signs Bill 2-22.

major relief for city leaders. “It’s been a really longtime coming,” said Deputy City Manager Jessica Clarke, who helped negotiate with County and other municipal leaders

for over six months to ensure feedback from municipalities was fairly incorporated into the bill. “It’s nice to reach an agreement with the county knowing that it’s a stable revenue source for the foresee-

## WHAT’S NEW?

### Spark Grants Information

Details, page 4

### It's Springtime: Are You Prepared?

Details, page 10

### COVID-19 Information and Resources

See page 12

### More FY23 Budget Info

See page 6

### Trash/Recycling Collection

No changes this month



### Look for this Icon throughout this issue

See page 10

## Investing in Our Community: Fiscal Year 2023 Proposed Budget Overview

Budget season has begun! City Manager Fox just kicked the Fiscal Year 2023 budget process off with a presentation of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Budget to City Council on April 6. Public hearings on the budget will be held on Wednesday, April 13 and Wednesday, April 27. You can also tune in to City Council work sessions to review the details of the budget on Monday, April 18 and Monday, April 25. The Fiscal Year 2023 budget work sessions and public hearings will culminate

in a final budget reconciliation session on May 2. Council-recommended changes will be incorporated, and the City Council will vote to adopt the final Fiscal Year 2023 Budget and Fiscal Year 2023 tax rate during the May 11 and May 18 Council meetings.

So what’s new in this year’s budget? In the upcoming Fiscal Year, we hope to preserve core services, help vulnerable residents in our community in unprecedented

BUDGET □ Page 6

REIMBURSEMENTS □ Page 3

### City Council FY 2023 Budget Schedule

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 7:30 P.M.

- Public Hearing on City Manager’s Recommended Budget

#### MONDAY, APRIL 18, 7:30 P.M.

- Budget Work Session

#### MONDAY, APRIL 25, 7:30 P.M.

- Budget Work Session

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 7:30 P.M.

- Constant Yield Tax Rate Public Hearing
- Budget Public Hearing

#### MONDAY, MAY 2, 7:30 P.M.

- Budget Work Session (Reconciliation)

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 7:30 P.M.

- First Reading Ordinance Adopting the FY 2023 Tax Rates
- First Reading Ordinance Adopting the FY 2023 Stormwater Management Budget
- First Reading Ordinance Adopting the FY 2023 Budget

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 7:30 P.M.

- Second Reading Ordinance Adopting the FY 2023 Tax Rates
- Second Reading Ordinance Adopting the FY 2023 Stormwater Management Budget
- Second Reading Ordinance Adopting the FY 2023 Budget



## Welcoming Reception for City Manager Jamal Fox

Wednesday, April 20  
6:45 – 7:30 p.m.

Join the City Council in welcoming Jamal Fox to Takoma Park, finally!

(Yes, he has been here since August, but we delayed the reception until the City Council resumed meeting in the Auditorium.)

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

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## Inside



A Blooming  
Business  
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A Poet's  
Potpourri  
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Spring  
Book Sale  
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# DOCKET

## Official City Government Meetings

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

The City Council meetings are conducted in a hybrid format, with the City Council and most staff typically present in the Auditorium. Participation on Zoom will continue to be an option for members of the community who do not wish to or cannot attend meetings in person. Zoom video conferencing will also be used to minimize travel time for some contractors and consultants, as well as for the City Attorney on most occasions.

For members of the public who wish to comment on Zoom, we will continue to request registration on Zoom before 5 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Any resident who cannot attend in person or use Zoom for public comments should contact the City Clerk's Office for assistance. Call Irma Nalvarte at 301-891-7214 or email [irman@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:irman@takomaparkmd.gov).

The public can continue to view meetings as always: on City TV (RCN – 13, HD 1060; Comcast/Xfinity – 13, HD 997; Verizon Fios – 28), on the City Council Video Page of the City Website; on City TV YouTube, or on City TV Facebook. There is no need to register on Zoom to simply view a meeting.

### OTHER PUBLIC MEETINGS

City Boards and Committees have the option of continuing to meet on Zoom or may resume in-person meetings. However, boards and committees are encouraged to provide a Zoom option even if meetings are held in the Community Center. Several meeting rooms are equipped with Smartboards that enable a hybrid virtual/in-person meeting. Please contact the City Clerk with questions.

### Receive Weekly Agenda and Meeting Notice Emails:

Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and committee calendar update by e-mail can sign up by sending an email to [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov).

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Wednesday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, April 18, 7:30 p.m. (Budget Work Session)
- Wednesday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, April 25, 7:30 p.m. (Budget Work Session)
- Wednesday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, May 2, 7:30 p.m. (Budget Work Session)
- Wednesday, May 4, 7:30 p.m.

### CITY BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

#### BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, April 14, 7:30 p.m.  
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

#### COMMISSION ON LANDLORD-TENANT AFFAIRS

Wednesday, April 20, 6:30 p.m.  
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

#### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 28, 7 p.m.  
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

#### GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 5, 6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, May 3, 6:30 p.m.

#### NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 12, 7:30 p.m.  
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

#### POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, April 18, 7 p.m.  
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

#### RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 21, 7 p.m.  
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

#### TREE COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 13, 7 p.m.  
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

#### YOUTH COUNCIL

Friday, April 15, 4:15 p.m.  
Hybrid Meeting  
(CC Hydrangea Room)

Friday, April 29, 4:15 p.m.  
Hybrid Meeting  
(CC Hydrangea Room)

### 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](mailto:jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7267 as early as possible.

## City Council Action

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

At its meeting on **February 16, 2022**, the City Council adopted **Resolution 2022-4** extending the term of the Task Force on Sustainable Banking and Investments. The Task Force was expected to report its findings to the City Council by February 28, but requested additional time, until March 22, to obtain public input before finalizing the report.

On **March 2, 2022**, the City Council approved **Ordinance 2022-3**, authorizing the spending plan and budget amendment for the City's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. (First reading was held on February 23.) The approved projects are: Administrative Salaries/Benefits, \$1,690,000; Emergency Rental Assistance, \$500,000; Mental Health Counselors, \$600,000; Grants to Small Businesses, \$300,000; Recreation Scholarships and Tutoring, \$300,000; Social Services Partnerships, \$3,000,000; Wi-Fi Hotspots Lending Program \$3,000; Laptop Lending Program, \$11,000; Municipal Broadband, \$400,000; Multi-

Family Housing Rehabilitation, \$1,000,000; Energy Efficiency Upgrades, \$500,000; Workforce Development, \$100,000; Crossroads Business Incubator, \$500,000; Recreation Center Redevelopment, \$320,000; Community Center Renovation, \$1,000,000; Premium Pay for Essential Workers, \$272,000; Financial Software Upgrade, \$165,000; Interactive Online Budget Platform, \$124,000; City/ARPA Contingency Fund, \$463,824.52; Library Expansion, \$4,000,000 (on hold).

The City Council adopted **Resolution 2022-5** on **March 9, 2022**. The resolution condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine and expressed solidarity with the Ukrainian people. On the same evening, the Council approved **Ordinance 2022-6**, authorizing procurement of Police Department mobile data computers from Front Line Mobile Tech at the cost of \$148,635. The computers are Panasonic Toughbooks used in police vehicles and as desktop replacements for certain police command staff and criminal investigation division officers who need to use computers in the field.

## FY 2023 Budget Public Hearings

### • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022

7:30 p.m.

Public Hearing on the City Manager's Recommended FY 2023 Budget

### • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022

7:30 p.m.

- Public Hearing on the Proposed FY 2023 Property Tax Rate (Constant Yield Tax Rate Public Hearing)
- Public Hearing on the Proposed FY 2023 Budget

The City Council will hold the public hearings noted above, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium, 7500 Maple Avenue. All interested persons are encouraged to attend the public hearings and sign up to speak. The option to register and testify on Zoom continues. To testify on Zoom, registration must be completed by 5 p.m. on the date of the public hearing. Those wishing to speak in person may sign up in the Auditorium when arriving for the meeting. Written comments may be sent to [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov) for distribution to the Council.

## City Election Tuesday, November 8, 2022

2022 is an election year in Takoma Park. The Nominating Caucus is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. Election day is Tuesday, November 8. This year's election will be conducted by mail. A complete election calendar is available on the City website. Contact Jessie Carpenter, [jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7267 for additional information.

## FY 2023 Living Wage Rate Established

Every City contract for the provision of services awarded after a competitive bid or proposal process requires the contractor and any subcontractor to pay each employee assigned to perform services under the City contract a living wage. The current living wage rate is \$15.40 per hour. Effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, the Takoma Park living wage rate will be \$16.00. Certain contracts are exempted from this requirement. Additional information can be found at [takomaparkmd.gov/services/bids-contracts](http://takomaparkmd.gov/services/bids-contracts).

## Important City Phone Numbers

City Information .....	301-891-7100
City Clerk .....	301-891-7267
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

# Flowering Plant Biz Blooms in Takoma Park

By Sean Gossard

What started as a small plant and design business out of her home has now blossomed into a full-retail shop with a storefront on Carroll Avenue. Agnes Traynor, owner and designer of Indigro Plant Design ([www.indigroplantdesign.com](http://www.indigroplantdesign.com)), has been designing and maintaining interior spaces for 12 years, seven of those by running her own business.

“My love for plants started with outdoor vegetable and flower gardening as well as indoor hydroponic gardening,” she said. “My plant knowledge is largely self-taught, and I have been lucky to have



Ana Isabel Photography @anaisabelphotography

Above, Agnes Traynor is the owner and designer of Indigro Plant Design at 7000 Carroll Ave., Suite 200F.

At left, Indigro Plant Design has everything from pots and planters to palms and succulents and offers online ordering and contact-less pick up.



some wonderful friends and mentors to share the journey with along the way.”

With the pandemic temporarily closing most of her clients’ workspaces, she needed to adapt to the “new normal.” That

things—selling planters and plants ranging from small succulents to large palms and everything in between—in addition to offering design and maintenance consultations for homes and businesses.

“People bought a lot of plants over the

pivot meant putting more focus on the retail side of

course of the pandemic,” she said. “They were really trying to learn about plant care and have grown quite an appreciation for growing. I feel like people are really developing their collections and seeking out new varieties of plants.”

But working out of her home was limiting, so last year Traynor decided to start searching for a space for her business. Eventually, that search led to the space

at 7000 Carroll Ave. above Carpe Diem Pizza. “It definitely feels good to have a workspace and to be able to separate my work life from home life,” she said. “It’s something I’ve always wanted to do, and I really enjoy doing it. It’s a lot of work, and I feel like I’m working seven days a week, but it feels great since it’s my own space.”

During the pandemic, Traynor and Indigro also set out to help local businesses, creating specially made arrangements to raise funds for Takoma Park’s Citywide Small Business Mini-Grant Program and the Old Takoma Business Association. “Working among plants was really fun and also helped me realize all the benefits plants bring to people and spaces and I have been enjoying doing that ever since,” Traynor said.

With the new storefront, Traynor says she’ll probably be doing fewer pop-ups, but she plans to be at the Takoma Park Street Festival later this year. Overall, Traynor’s been focusing on the positive sides of the pandemic and the support she’s received from the Takoma Park community.

“Takoma Park is a really good and supportive community, and I feel very grateful,” she said. “I hate to say the pandemic has been helpful, but in a way, it helped steer me in another direction, and I really enjoy having people come to me and talk.”

Indigro offers online ordering and contact-less pick up. For more on Indigro Plant Design, go to [www.indigroplantdesign.com](http://www.indigroplantdesign.com) or visit the shop in person at 7000 Carroll Ave., Suite 200F.

## REIMBURSEMENTS

■ From page 1

able future.”

Previously, the City would need to renegotiate the reimbursement every year with plenty of time-consuming back and forth between City and county officials. While the county would occasionally reimburse the municipalities for services, the total amounts would need to be renegotiated every year. “Every year we weren’t sure when the county would give us the money and weren’t sure what the amount would be,” Clarke said. “It felt like a political process each time. Now it’s all in the code.”

Bill 2-22 formalizes that Montgomery County owes a certain amount every year

for certain services, which is an incredibly significant step, according to former Takoma Park City Manager Suzanne Ludlow, who had been pushing the passage of the legislation since the late 1990s.

“There’s been two issues,” Ludlow said. “One is that the county never liked paying the money and wanted to spend that money somewhere else, and two, the county didn’t really see it as an amount that was owed. How much of that and how much they owed was a topic of conversation every year. There had been formulas years ago from the economic crash from 2008 to 2012 and trying to get that back has been a particular challenge.”

Over the years, the amount the county would reimburse had remained stagnant and had not kept up with inflation or the growing budget of the city’s police force.

“The bill that just passed also codifies quadrennial reassessments, so the fact that we now have a formal codified process for tax duplication and a timeline for when reimbursement activities need to happen each year is a significant improvement to the ad hoc processes of the past,” Clarke said.

In all, the bill will double the County’s reimbursement for municipally delivered services from \$10.1 million for Fiscal Year 2022 to \$20.5 million with an 80 percent phase-in for Fiscal Year 2023, a 90 percent phase-in for Fiscal Year 2024, and a total phase-in for Fiscal Year 2025.

“The phase-in was a compromise we had to make to reach agreement with the County,” Clarke said. “After Fiscal Year 2025, reimbursements must be increased [based on] the annual Consumer Price Index percentage change for the D.C. Metro area.”

Takoma Park itself is expecting to see reimbursements of around \$5.3 million for Fiscal Year 2022, with increases over the next few years. That includes a guaranteed minimum of \$4,020,521 for the city’s police department. The money goes directly to the City’s General Fund.

It has truly been an effort on multiple fronts, including other municipalities in Montgomery County like Chevy Chase, Gaithersburg, and Rockville, along with plenty of Takoma Park employees and leaders. “I appreciate that over time we’ve really made progress formalizing this process with the municipalities. That’s the hugest step; it’s really phenomenal,” Ludlow said. “The pressure on the county has been consistently coming from the mayors of Takoma Park—including Bruce Williams and Kate Stewart—keeping pressure on the elected officials as something that needs to get done.”



## THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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## Forever Young

Enjoying Active Life Over 55 in Takoma Park

Shake off the Winter Doldrums and Spring into Spring!

Check out Spring & Summer (April to August) 2022 Edition!  
[takomaparkmd.gov/news/forever-young-newsletter](http://takomaparkmd.gov/news/forever-young-newsletter)



# BUILDING COMMUNITY

## TKPK5K Is Back!

Register now to run the Takoma Park Virtual 5K! This year, you can run your own route individually or with family and friends. Run between May 15 and May 31 to take part in this community tradition that will help fund walking and running programs at our five local schools. To register, donate, or become a sponsor, visit <https://bit.ly/3tYxXVR>.



## City of Takoma Park Spark Grants Application Open

The Spark Grant Program provides grants for small, community-driven projects to create stronger, more connected neighborhoods. This grant program is open to community groups, neighborhood associations, and tenant and homeowner associations. The online application is open, and funding decisions will be made on a rolling basis.

Program Guidelines:

- Funding requests must be between \$500 and \$2,000.
- Projects must take place in the City of Takoma Park and benefit city residents.
- Spark grant funding must be directed to a nonprofit or another community organization or association; no individuals can receive funds.
- Organizations that are not currently 501c3 or 501c6 are still eligible for funding. However, please note that



these funds may be taxable.

For more information, email [grants@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:grants@takomaparkmd.gov). To access the application, go to [takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/grant-programs/takoma-spark-grants](http://takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/grant-programs/takoma-spark-grants).

## Takoma Park Arbor Day Celebration

Join us for a celebratory tree walk and community meet-and-greet in honor of Arbor Day on Saturday, April 23 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. starting at the City of Takoma Park Public Works building located at 31 Oswego Avenue.

The event will open with a brief talk by the City's Urban Forest Manager, Marty Frye about what you can do to help preserve the urban forest. After that, community members with active educational, promotional, or service projects working towards urban forest health will have the opportunity to speak for 2–3 minutes to introduce themselves and their work and to let others know how they can get involved.

Marty will then lead a tree walk from the Public Works building over to Takoma-Piney Branch Park, discussing the

identification, ecology, and fun-facts of selected tree species along the way. We hope this event can serve as a worthy celebration of trees and to facilitate connections between tree lovers and advocates in the City.

Gathering and talk to start at 10 a.m. in front of the Public Works Building. Tree Walk to begin by 10:30 a.m. and conclude by approximately 11:30 a.m. or 12 p.m. Contact the Urban Forest Manager in advance if you would like to speak about your tree-related community project.

For more information, contact Marty at [urbanforestmanager@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:urbanforestmanager@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7612. RSVP on Eventbrite: [www.eventbrite.com/e/takoma-park-arbor-day-gathering-and-tree-walk-tickets-295370580357](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/takoma-park-arbor-day-gathering-and-tree-walk-tickets-295370580357).

## Care for Your Lawn Safely

Harmful chemicals are not necessary to beautify our surroundings. This is the reasoning behind the creation of the Safe Grow Act that the City enacted back in 2014. This law was created to protect ourselves and our environment from harmful pesticides.

Of the 30 most used lawn pesticides, 17 are possible and/or known carcinogens, 18 have the potential to disrupt the endocrine (hormonal) system, 19 are linked to reproductive effects and sexual dysfunction, 11 have been linked to birth defects, 14 are neurotoxic, 24 can cause kidney or liver damage, and 25 are sensitizers and/or irritants. Children are especially sensitive to pesticide exposure as they take in more pesticides relative to their body weight than adults and have developing organ systems that are more vulnerable and less able to detoxify toxic chemicals.

Back in 2019, Montgomery County enacted the Healthy Lawns Act, which mirrors our Safe Grow legislation, so that all



Montgomery County residents can reduce their exposure to the unhealthy effects of harmful lawn care pesticides. Organic lawn care isn't difficult. In fact, it can save time and money, while protecting you, your family, your pets, and the environment. As we transition to spring, it's time to:

- Remove winter debris
- Test soils
- Dethatch if thatch is greater than .5 inch
- Overseed thin areas
- Apply corn gluten after snow melt for inhibiting germinating weeds.
- Also, consider aeration of your lawn and applying lime if needed for pH adjustment

For more information about caring for your lawn safely, visit [takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/neighborhood-services/safegrow](http://takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/neighborhood-services/safegrow) or [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns).

## Takoma Park Playground Guide & Scavenger Hunt

The Let's Play America play team updated the Playground Guide with the bonus of a Scavenger Hunt. Several people contributed to this amazing resource, but two people should be highlighted for their contributions: Dean Paris and Lucy Hanisco.

Dean Paris designed the first City of Takoma Park Playground Guide back in 2012, and in 2015 he updated it. Dean did all this pro-bono. Dean lives in Takoma Park with his husband and is the owner of Paris-Design.com Dean stepped up to the plate again and updated the guide. Let's Play America hopes when funds become available Dean's company will be asked to do the printing.

Lucy Hanisco spent more thirty hours during the summer of 2021 visiting every play space, updating the information for the guide, and creating the Scavenger Hunt. Lucy lives with her family in Takoma Park and is a seventh grader at Takoma Park Middle School.

When people go to [www.letsplayamerica.org](http://www.letsplayamerica.org) and click on Play Resources, they will see Takoma Park Playground Guide listed: [www.letsplayamerica.org/takoma-park-playground-guide](http://www.letsplayamerica.org/takoma-park-playground-guide). Let's Play America welcomes sponsors for the guide to show they value play. Sponsors can be businesses, families, individuals, places



Lucy Hanisco

of worship, pre-schools, schools, scout troops, and any other organization that values play. Contact [info@letsplayamerica.org](mailto:info@letsplayamerica.org) and let us know you would like to become a sponsor.

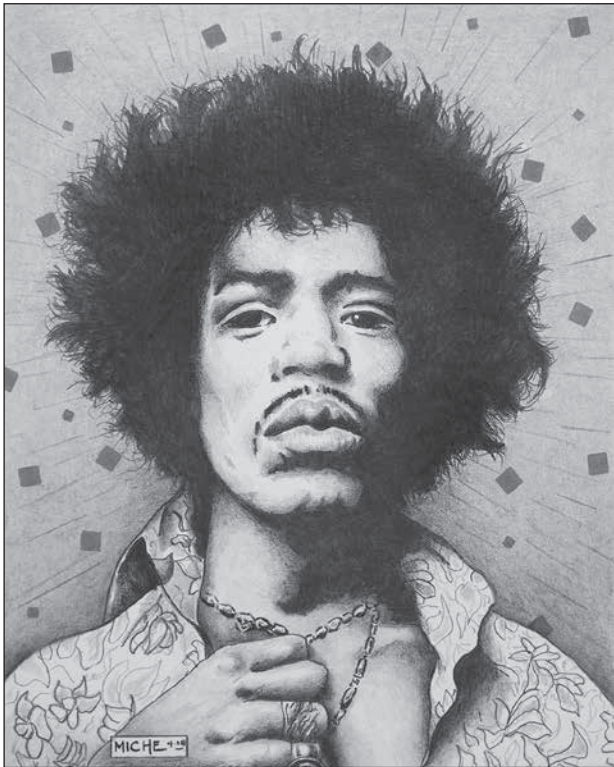
# *Realm of the Real* Exhibition Features Figurative Art

Artistic explorations of the human form will be featured in a new art exhibition titled *Realm of the Real* at the Takoma Park Community Center.

A free opening reception will be held at 7:30 p.m. on April 28 where visitors can see artwork by D.C.-area artists Sarah Louise Hyde, Michael Hyman, and Michael G. Stewart. The exhibition, which will be on view until July 13, is curated by Brendan Smith, the City's arts and humanities coordinator.

"Modern art often focuses on abstract art, but we're interested in showing a wide range of artwork created by local artists in our gallery spaces at the Community Center," Smith said. "We're happy to feature the work of these talented artists in our efforts to share Takoma Park's appreciation of the arts."

Sarah Louise Hyde's paintings of dancers reveal swirling forms, elegant gestures, and the unspoken rhythms of motion. She served on the faculty of the Corcoran School of Art and showed her work in many venues in the D.C. area. She earned a PhD in art and philosophy from New York University, and she lived in Takoma Park from 1985



Michael G. Stewart, *Jimi*

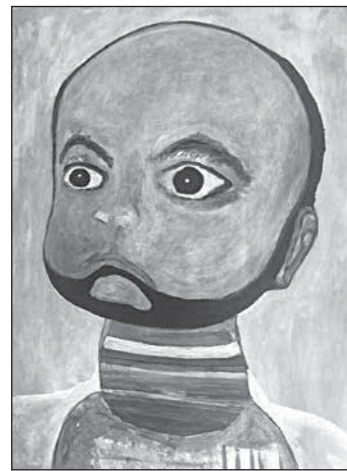


Sarah Louise Hyde, *Untitled*

until her death from brain cancer in 2007.

Her husband Jack Kline has been framing and preserving her work to share it with a wider audience. "Most of this artwork would have never been seen," he said. "It's a visual remembrance and memorial to her energy, creativity, and enthusiasm."

Michael Hyman is a Black artist whose work spans a range of mediums across painting, digital 3-D sculpture, video installation, and photography. "I'm most excited about creating pieces in the range of Negritude Art with linear narratives embedded in social and political abstractions," he said. "I hope to fasci-



Michael Hyman, *Mister*

nate, educate, and enlighten the viewer with my work."

Negritude began in the 1930s as a literary movement among French-speaking African and Caribbean writers, who asserted the power of Black identity and a rejection of the racist oppression of colonialism.

Takoma Park native Michael G. Stewart's career as an architectural and aerial photographer helped him translate his artistic vision into more personal mediums, such as drawing, etching, and linocuts. He worked for 20 years as a photographer for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Council for the Traditional Arts.



Michael Hyman, *Black Hand Side*



Sarah Louise Hyde, *Untitled*

ways, and realize several capital projects that have been years in the making for the benefit of all residents. The City aims to maintain quality services while furthering Council Priorities and adhering to our community values such as environmental sustainability, racial equity, and fiscal sustainability. As you flip through the budget book (available at <https://bit.ly/3KsDqLG>), you will see continued investments in mitigating the impact of COVID-19. Let's explore some of the ins and outs of the City Manager's Proposed Budget.

Budget Context

City staff took a conservative approach to balancing this year's budget, controlling costs and using existing funding sources strategically. Total expenditures across all City funds totals \$41.6 million, with personnel costs making up 43 percent of expenditures. The General Fund, which represents 71 percent of City spending in FY23 and supports the majority of the City's operating expenses, is proposed at \$34.8 million in expenditures compared to \$27.8 million in revenues. The \$6.9 million deficit is covered by \$5 million from the library bond reserve as well as by the City's rainy-day reserve and other restricted reserves.

Total revenues did increase across all funds in FY23 by 10 percent compared to FY22 projected revenues. The increase is driven in part by increases in the assessable property tax base value and income tax re-

ceipts. Tax duplication payments will remain stable in Fiscal Year 2023 thanks to the historic agreement that Takoma Park and other municipalities reached with Montgomery County in March 2022. The \$17.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act federal aid, implementation of the new stormwater fee structure, and planned installment of red-light cameras has also eased the demands on the City's

General Fund and reserves.

However, ongoing tax revenues are not keeping pace with cost increases for City services to meet the City's policy goals and community needs over time. The Fiscal Year 2023 budget therefore introduces a property tax increase of three cents to cover rising operational costs compounded by inflation, support City personnel (potential five percent wage increase with union negotiations in process), and protect the City's rainy-day reserve.

Budget Highlights

To allow a return to pre-pandemic levels of service, the Fiscal Year 2023 Proposed budget reflects increased hours for Public Works, Recreation, and Library part-time staff. City staff will work to improve service delivery for all departments through technology upgrades for the City's human capital management platform and a migration to a new website. Funding for a long-term financial planning consultant is included

as well as administrative costs for the November 2022 City election. Also of note is the movement of the Code Enforcement function from the Police Department to the Housing and Community Development Department.

The community investments funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) are outlined in an ambitious five-year plan that emerged from a month's-long planning process. The plan invests in affordable housing, small business recovery, family assistance programs, social services partnerships, and City operations. ARPA funds will also be used to advance the expansion of the Takoma Park Library and the renovation of the Community Center atrium in FY23. The full \$17.5 million in federal funds must be spent by December 2024 or the remaining funds will be returned to the State. The City has temporarily expanded its staff capacity by hiring an ARPA manager and two other administrative positions to ensure effective implementation of the ARPA Spending Plan.

A Budget Focused on Resiliency

In summary, the Fiscal Year 2023 Proposed Budget is a maintenance of service budget with expanded community services supported by the ARPA spending plan. It restores pre-pandemic service levels and promises to provide vulnerable residents with ARPA programs but proposes few new General Fund expenditures to protect the City's fiscal health. We look forward to receiving public feedback on the Fiscal Year 2023 Proposed Budget and working as a community to implement the ARPA spending plan. This is the first budget proposed by City Manager Fox. Under his leadership, the Fiscal Year 2023 budget will advance City Council goals and priorities and support reopening and recovery for a strong and resilient Takoma Park.



City of Takoma Park

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)  
Spending Plan

\$17.5 MILLION

Affordable Housing

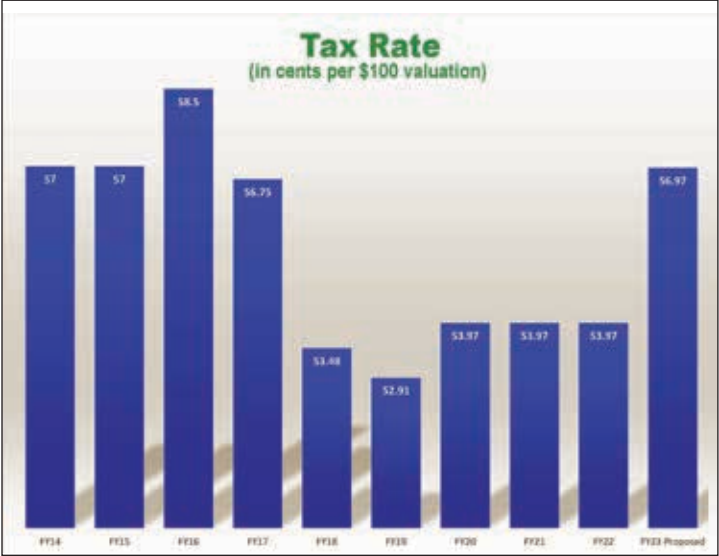
Small Business Recovery

Social Services Partnerships

Family Resiliency Programs

City Operations

Community Anchors



National Poetry Month: A Poet Laureate's Potpourri

By Kathleen O'Toole

This will be my last column as Takoma Park Poet Laureate. I'm coming to the end of my term, and my husband John Ruthrauff and I are preparing for a move to a retirement community this spring. So, here's a potpourri of parting reflections.

On Poetry and Solidarity

It's April again – National Poetry Month, and hard to believe that only one of my four as Poet Laureate was pre-pandemic. We've weathered a lot, and I've been asked to offer poetry as consolation and have encouraged writing poems as a daily practice for wrestling with it all – finding beauty and hope in a world of loss. And now, just as we seemed to be emerging cicada-like from our COVID hibernation, the onslaught of war in Ukraine.



Kathleen O'Toole

In my 20 years here, I've known Takoma Park as a community in solidarity with those suffering from conflicts around the world, one that rallies in hope for a better world. I wrote a poem "Storm" in 2004, a year after the start of the Iraq War, inspired in part by the Buddhist peace flags I passed on Westmoreland and Walnut each day walking to the Metro. An excerpt seems timely: "Afternoon of March winds –//surprise cloudbursts

drench the fat squirrels // in my yard. Sunshine, blowback // disheveled branches:// litter of a year of war. // .... On the corner // rows of Buddhist peace flags//raveling with each new storm."

A Return to In-Person Poetry Readings!

Our Takoma Park Arts team kept poetry programming alive during COVID

lockdowns with online readings and our sidewalk poetry contest (look for more poems under your feet soon!) Finally, after omicron-related delays, we're looking forward to the first in-person poetry readings since February 2020 at the Community Center. Mark your calendars!

The Free Minds Book Club will be returning at 7:30 p.m. on May 12 in the auditorium. Their first reading here in 2020 of poetry created by those incarcerated in the D.C. jail and the federal prison system and presented by formerly incarcerated poet-mentors drew a large crowd and was riveting.

Then on June 2 at 7:30 p.m., we'll host a themed reading: Poetry of Migration with Indran Amirtanayagam, Luz Stella Mejía, and Sofía Estévez, again in the Community Center auditorium.

Poetry and "Mixed Emotions"

W. H. Auden reportedly said: "Poetry might be defined as the clear expression of mixed feelings." So, my own feelings – about leaving my post (with many plans upended by COVID), not to mention leav-

ing this community – a mix of gratitude and sadness: *delighted* that on April 29, I'll do the poetry workshop for the residents of Victory Towers that was set for March 2020, and *regretful* that a reading of local Ethiopian poets will have to wait for the next Poet Laureate.

As for leaving this community – our neighbors and our home here, I'm reminded of lines from poet-friend Rob Soley's "Moving Day": *"It's time to walk through your home//with the eyes of one who will no longer be there...no longer look at the sun as it comes in a room at a certain angle//and plays like newborn light across the kitchen floor."* Still, I'm comforted by what we'll take with us: friendships, the spirit of Takoma Park, and spring days we continue to savor. I'll leave you with some recent "haiku in progress" in the hopes that you discover some of your own.

awake at midnight,	March breeze
waxing Worm Moon –	stirs wind chime
	melodies
my skylight view	... the walk home

# LIBRARY



## DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

### Gardening Time!

By Jessica Jones

How would you describe your perfect date? April 25 according to Miss Rhode Island. "Not too hot, not too cold; all you need is a light jacket!" Now that being outside is pleasant again, with a long growing season ahead of us, it's a good time to think about bringing some plants into your life.

Story time: I brought an avocado seedling with me when we moved from Texas. My husband's family is from the Rio Grande Valley, close to the coast, and the subtropical climate means that almost anything grows at his grandparents' house there. They have lemon, lime, guava, and orange trees, and a species of avocado I've never seen in stores - long, with skin so thin you can eat it, and the pits are small to absent. Beautiful, delicious fruit. I spent eight months nurturing a pit from that tree, grew it to a foot-tall seedling, brought it to Takoma Park in the passenger seat of my car, and a rabbit ate it the first night we were here.

Long story short, I could have benefitted from reading up on what to expect when gardening in this new environment before leaving my beloved plant outside. Also, don't let my experience put you off gardening. We have books that will address almost any conditions you can think of that would prevent gardening success.

"There are rabbits in my yard." Mine, too. Welcome. I wish I'd perused Jeff Gillman's *The Truth About Organic Gardening: Benefits, Drawbacks, and The Bottom Line*. Gillman covers organic and conventional methods for managing rodents, deer, birds, and all the other creatures who try to steal the fruit of your labors. "I don't have a lot of sunlight." Jane Taylor's *The Shady Garden: A Practical Guide to Planning & Planting* has already thought all of this through. There is plenty of information in here about shade-tolerant plants that don't require a lot of natural light exposure.

"I don't have a yard." Also, not a problem.



If you have a little space for a container or a tiny plot somewhere in a community garden, you can grow all kinds of stuff, even

vegetables! *The Postage Stamp Vegetable Garden: Grow Tons of Organic Vegetables in Tiny Spaces and Containers* by Karen Newcomb has lots of tips for maximizing your resources. Nancy J. Ondra has even done a lot of the selection work for you in *Container Theme Gardens: 42 Combinations, Each Using 5 Perfectly Matched Plants* if you don't want to reinvent the wheel.

"I struggle with remembering to care for my plants due to my busy schedule/depression/etc." No worries, we have several books about low maintenance gardens and drought-tolerant plants. Try *The New Low-Maintenance Garden: How to Have a Beautiful, Productive Garden and the Time to Enjoy It* by Valerie Easton, Nan Stermann's *Hot Color In The Dry Garden: Inspiring Designs and Vibrant Plants for The Waterwise Gardener*, and David A. Bainbridge's *Gardening with Less Water: Low-Tech, Low-Cost Techniques: Use Up to 90% Less Water in Your Garden*. Also, using less water is a good practice in general.

"I am worried about our fragile ecosystem, its pollinators, and invasive species." I see and mirror your anxiety. *The Conscientious Gardener: Cultivating a Garden Ethic* by Sarah Hayden Reichard is all about sustainable horticulture.

"I am a vampire." Aside from perhaps avoiding alliums, I would suggest checking out Cathy Wilkin-



DIRECTOR'S COLUMN □ Page 11

#### 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.

To protect our most vulnerable patrons and staff, the library strongly encourages everyone to continue to wear a mask while in the library, even though masks are optional in City facilities now.

Books-to-Go is continuing, and the book return bin is still open at all times. Please note: If you are picking up a Books-to-Go order, call the library's main number, 301-891-7259.

The library continues to distribute COVID-19 rapid test kits and KN-95 masks. Ask at the front desk.

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](http://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](http://www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents).

## CALENDAR

**Join Ms. Kati and Ms. Verónica every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. for an online Circle Time via Zoom!** Ms. Verónica will join Ms. Kati at Circle Time! Spring is here, and we feel inspired! We sing songs, have fun with fingerplays and rhymes, and do many dancing and movement exercises. We read a book in the middle of the program. If your child has a birthday coming up, please email Ms. Kati at [kathrynn@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:kathrynn@takomaparkmd.gov) with the age and day, and we will celebrate! 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.

**Zoom Comics Jam:** Once a month, generally on the second Wednesday at 4 p.m. The next date is April 20. Please register for Zoom Comics Jam at [www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents](http://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.

**Scribbler's Cabal: Thursdays (NEW DAY!) at 4 p.m.** Join in-person in the Children's Room or on Zoom. Meeting ID is 734-913-6285 (same as Comics Jam), no Meeting password needed.

**Kids' Art:** It's National Kite Month! Come craft with us on Sunday, April 6 from 2 to 4pm in the Children's Room. Make your Mary Poppins dreams come true with this

kite craft that uses a wire coat hanger, paper, and paint. Recommended ages 5 and up. An alternative option for younger kids will be available.

#### Friends' Big Book Club Discussions

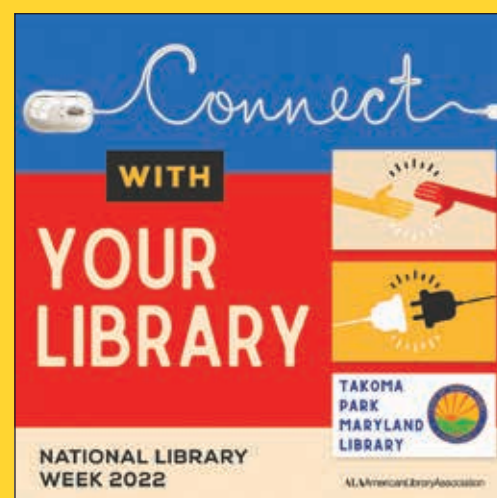
The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library will have two more discussions of *Palace Walk* by Naguib Mahfouz on April 13 (chapters 27-48) and April 27 (chapters 49-71), at 7:30 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room of the Community Center. A Zoom link will be provided for those who want to join the discussion online; email [ftpmlbookgroup@gmail.com](mailto:ftpmlbookgroup@gmail.com) for more information.

**Celebrate El día de los niños/El día de los libros** with Takoma Park Maryland Library and Teatro La Bolsa! On April 30 at 1:30 p.m., the theater group will present "Compañeras de viaje: Dancing Through Latin America," on the library's front lawn. Learn folkloric dances from five different countries in this interactive, bilingual (English/Spanish) performance for the whole family. Participants are encouraged to bring a picnic blanket, a plush toy, and a scarf to play with! Free program. Drop-in, no registration required. This program is partially sponsored by a grant from REFORMA (an ALA affiliate).

**Dance Exchange Partnership!** This spring, Dance Exchange will present *Takoma Park Moves* in partnership with the Takoma Park Maryland Library! Join DX artists to move with a mix of families, professionals, and community members of all ages, backgrounds, and levels. Drop-in anytime, no registration required. The program will meet at the library's front lawn on Saturdays at 11 a.m. Dates: April 2, 9, 23, 30; and May 7, 14. Get more information at [danceexchange.org](http://danceexchange.org).

## National Library Week

National Library Week is April 3 – 9! This year's theme is "Connect With Your Library." This is a friendly reminder to stop by the library or utilize our Books-To-Go program!



Listen to This! Podcast Review is on hiatus.

# RECREATION

## TOTS

### EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

#### Piggy Bank Pioneers

Students learn about money while singing songs, playing games, listening to stories, and watching cartoons. This class is engaging, interactive, informative, and most of all, fun. We learn about money by engaging in scavenger hunts to find different types of coins. The Piggy Bank Pioneers play games to help participants understand the importance of credit. Our friends Zoey and Zander will make several appearances in cartoon form reiterating concepts reviewed in class. At times, parents will receive board games to print for their young person to play in class. Our game allows children to see how important it is to conserve to get to their goals. This song will also be available at the end of class. The Piggy Bank Pioneers make learning a full-body experience to help children retain more information. Instructor: Tyronda Boone



Virtual  
4–6 years  
Saturday, 9–10 a.m.  
May 7–June 11  
Resident: \$30 / Non-resident: \$40

#### The Great Food Truck Race

If your tiny chef dreams of someday having their own restaurant or food truck, sign them up for this inventive class. Each class the students will produce a different course (appetizer, soup, main dish, or dessert) or an item from a certain cuisine and build a creative food truck around it. Over the course (no pun intended) of the session, they will also be working on a final idea for their very own food truck, expanding on the types

**NEW**

of foods that their restaurant on wheels would serve based on experiences they have had in class. Students will be introduced to a variety of cuisines, cooking skills and presentations throughout the week. Instructor: Toni Escobedo

Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Avenue  
Art Studio  
4–6 years  
Tuesdays, 6:15–7:15 p.m.  
April 5–May 24  
Resident: \$190 / Non-resident: \$210



## 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.  
April 23–May 28  
\$55

## YOUTH

### EXTENDED CARE

#### Fun Day, May 1

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. They must bring masks, a lunch, snacks and labeled water bottle. Activities and performers are subject to change. 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, May 2  
8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.  
Resident: \$50 / Non-resident: \$60

## DANCE

### Beginning Jazz

Children are growing up fast, and there is nothing more important than encouraging and pouring into their creativity. Through our performing arts program, your child will benefit through independent growth of positive reinforcement. They will thrive with enriching activities, enhancing strength and coordination. Beginner Jazz skills are age-appropriate material and prepare the dancer in development of more complex steps. The Jazz portion of the class will focus on pirouettes, footwork combinations and an introduction to basic leaps, small jumps, and floor work. Instructor: Edurama



**Summer Camp  
2022 is open  
for registration  
now!**



**School Year 2022-  
2023 Childcare  
registration  
opens soon!**

Families with a current scholarship: 4/21  
City Residents: 4/28  
Non-residents: 5/5

Virtual  
7–11 years  
Thursdays, 6:30–7:30pm  
April 7–May 26  
Resident: \$80 / Non-resident: \$90

### Hip-Hop Dance

Join this 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

Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Avenue  
Dance Studio  
5–11 years  
Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  
April 9–June 4  
(No class 4/16)  
Resident: \$65 / Non-resident: \$75

## 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  
\*Fridays, 4–6 p.m.  
April 15–May 13  
Resident: \$55 / Non-resident: \$65

**Now on  
Fridays!**

## SPORTS

### 2022 Co-ed T-ball League

This co-ed league allows girls and boys to have fun while learning the fundamentals of baseball. Emphasis will be on fun, learning to hit, running bases, and catching. No experience is necessary as all skill levels are welcome. Participants must bring their own baseball gloves. All teams will be formed by the Recreation Department. Games are played on Saturday mornings. Parents are encouraged to coach.

Ed Wilhelm Field  
2 Darwin Ave



## Eggstravaganza and Field Day Speggtacular Events

Eggciting times are coming to Takoma Park. Celebrate the arrival of spring – Hippy Hop style! As the temperatures warm and flowers bloom, there will be plenty of outdoor fun at this spring fun event for all. The City of Takoma Park Recreation Department invites you to a two-day celebration. You can join the Eggstravaganza on Friday and Saturday, April 15–16 from 12–3 p.m. Grab your baskets and let's go! Hop around town on whichever day fits your schedule best. Youth ages 2–8 can, with help from their families, solve various clues on our website that take them to local establishments on a map. With parent participation, kids can enter the business and get an egg or two filled with treats. Some treats will have a ticket in them for an additional prize. Emptied eggs can be returned to the Police Department lobby for reuse next year. It is not a race, so please obey



all traffic laws and COVID-19 policies.

On Saturday, April 16 from 4–6 p.m., we will close out our two-day event with a Field Day- Speggtacular at Ed Wilhelm Field. Field Day-Speggtacular is our new addition to the program, which will be full of free activities at Ed Wilhelm Field where kids can find tons of fun things to do. We will be joined by Mr. Bunny, who will hop around and interact with the kids and be available for photos. We will have entertainers and performers, treats, face painting, balloon artists, a photo booth and much more. This event is rain or shine. We will move indoors to the Community Center in the event of inclement weather.

Check our website [takomaparkmd.gov/recreation](http://takomaparkmd.gov/recreation) and social media pages for updates and more fun activities closer to the event!

# RECREATION

## RECREATION

■ From page 8

5–7 years  
8 Week Season  
Saturdays, June 4-July 30  
(No games 7/2)  
9 a.m. games  
Resident: \$70 / Non-resident: \$80

### Golf

This course is designed for the novice golfer. This class will focus on the fundamentals of the sport including the equipment, some rules, etiquette, and the history of the sport. Instructor: Fred Harllee

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
Outdoor  
7315 New Hampshire Avenue  
6 & Up  
5 Week Session  
Saturdays, 11–11:50 a.m.  
April 23-May 21  
\$50

## TEENS

### EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

#### Girl Scouts: Forensic Science Program

In partnership with Girls Scouts Nation's Capital, the forensic science program is centered around discovering and learning all about different careers you can have in STEM, learning about famous women in STEM, and all about the science behind the jobs. Girls will have the opportunity to discover all about forensic science, try their hands at the science, and escape the mission to become Girl Scout Special Agents! This activity is for people who identify as girls.

Takoma Park Community Center  
Hydrangea Room  
7500 Maple Avenue  
Grades 6–8  
4 Week Session  
Tuesdays, 3:30–4:30 p.m.  
April 26-May 17  
Free

### FITNESS

#### Girls Empowerment Yoga Class

This is an eight-week yoga led mentoring program that aims to increase self-confidence, self-love, reduce stress from youth life, and develop concentration and mindfulness. All sessions will begin with a themed activity followed by a gentle flow to promote flexibility, strength, and balance. Come and join other young ladies and discover the flow within you! Instructor: Alessandra Flores

Takoma Park Community Center  
Dance Studio  
7500 Maple Avenue  
11–13 years  
8 Week Session  
Wednesdays, April 20-June 8  
4:30–6 p.m.  
Resident: \$15 / Non-resident: \$25

### SOCIAL

#### Esports Club

Take your gaming to the next level! In joining our Esports Club, students will have the opportunity to enhance gaming skills and learn all about the world of competitive gaming while having fun with their peers. Space is limited so register today!

Takoma Park Community Center  
Hydrangea Room  
7500 Maple Avenue

Grades 6–12  
8 Week Session  
Wednesdays, 3:30–5:30 p.m.  
April 20-June 8  
Free

### Teen Night

Need something to do on a Friday evening? Well, you're in luck because we host Teen Night on the second Friday of each month. Teens in the community can come out to enjoy an evening of music, games, and more! Be sure to invite a friend because you are not going to want to miss this.

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
Gymnasium  
7315 New Hampshire Avenue  
Grades 6–12  
Friday, 6:30–8:30 p.m.  
April 8  
Free

### SPORTS

#### Y.E.S. Summer Basketball League

This program provides a positive venue for youth to express themselves through the game of basketball. Teams will be guaranteed five games and the season will conclude with playoffs and a championship game. Each participant will receive a Y.E.S. League t-shirt. For more information, please email [tpsports@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tpsports@takomaparkmd.gov).

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
Gymnasium  
7315 New Hampshire Avenue  
5 Week Season  
June 20-July 26  
(No Games July 5)  
**Grades 5–8:**  
Mondays, 6–8 p.m.  
**Grades 9–12:**  
Tuesdays 6–8 p.m.  
Resident: \$35 / Non-resident: \$45

## ADULT

### ART

#### Painting Exploration

In this beginner class, participants are encouraged to try different materials and methods, as well as explore some of the basic elements of design in their work. Participants will try still life, landscape as well as painting from their imaginations. We will examine paintings by other artists and give helpful feedback to one another in a comfortable setting. Grab a brush and come by the studio to explore painting! A non-refundable \$35 materials fee is due to the instructor on the 1st day of class. Instructor: Caroline Mackinnon

Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Avenue  
Art Studio  
16 & Up  
Fridays, 10–11:30 a.m.  
May 6-June 10  
Resident: \$140 / Non-resident: \$160  
Materials Fee: \$35

### 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.  
April 6-May 25  
Resident: \$90 / Non-resident: \$100

### 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, 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  
7500 Maple Avenue  
Dance Studio  
16 & Up  
Thursdays, 7–8 p.m.  
April 14-June 16  
Resident: \$50 / Non-resident: \$60

#### Body Works Plus Abs (Hybrid)

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: Abel Asafere

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

Takoma Park Community Center & Virtual  
Dance Studio  
7500 Maple Avenue  
16 & Up  
Fridays, 6–7 p.m.  
April 1-May 20  
Resident: \$60 / Non-resident: \$70

#### Bootcamp

This total body program includes a circuit of drills, such as jumping jacks, running, push-ups, squats, crunches, and weight training. Drop-ins are welcome. Students are required to bring their own mats. Instructor: Jeremy Sherron

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
Gymnasium  
7315 New Hampshire Ave  
16 & Up  
5 Week Session  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.  
April 26-May 26  
\$80  
DROP-IN: \$10

#### 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 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.  
April 6-June 15  
Resident: \$104 / Non-resident: \$124  
Drop-In: \$15

### Zumba

Zumba is a fitness program that combines Latin and international music with dance moves. Zumba routines incorporate interval training, alternating fast and slow rhythms to help improve cardiovascular fitness. No equipment needed for this class. Instructor: Charonne Butler

Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Avenue  
Dance Studio  
16 & Up  
Saturdays, 10:15–11:15 a.m.  
April 23-June 18  
Resident: \$60 / Non-Resident: \$70  
Drop-In: \$15

### MARTIAL ARTS



#### Karate Self Defense

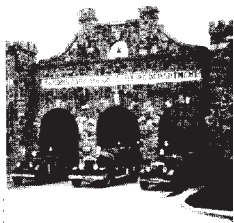
Are you looking for a new form of exercise? If so, try Karate Self Defense. Through the practice of Karate, one can gain self-confidence, leadership experience, self-defense skills, focus, discipline, improved physical fitness and more. Instructor: Christian Brown

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
Back Room  
7315 New Hampshire Ave  
16 & Up  
Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.  
March 2-June 29  
Free with Recreation Membership

#### Kung Fu

Bungo Fu is the Jamaican style of Kung Fu! Come learn meditation, self-defense, improved flexibility and self-awareness! This ancient form of self-defense provides physical and mental exercise which could help the students defend themselves by strengthening hand and eye coordination as well as assist with the maintaining of balance as they get older. The student will gain physical fitness, mental and spiritual strength. There is a \$70 non-refundable uniform fee payable to the instructor. Instructor: Master Robert Thompson

Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Avenue  
Dance Studio  
16 & Up  
Mondays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.  
April 4-June 27  
Resident: \$165 / Non-resident: \$185  
Uniform Fee: \$70



## THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

### Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of March 31, 2022, 12 people have died in fires compared to 19 in 2021.

### Hot vehicle deaths

As of March 31, 2022, 0 children have died in hot vehicles across the country. Please, when you leave your vehicle make sure you check the back seat, and everyone goes with you. Also, lock it.



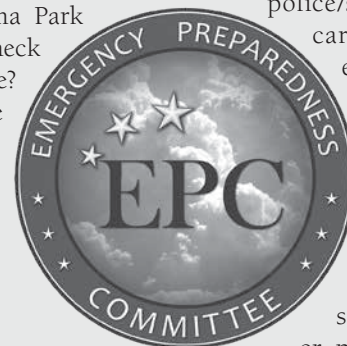
### Time for Spring Cleaning

Let this be the time to rid your home of potential fire and tripping hazards. Check the basement, attic, closets, and other storage areas, remove old newspapers, paints, old wrapping paper, and rubbish should be discarded. Finally, don't forget to check your smoke alarms. Remember, good housekeeping can aid in the prevention of a fire or injury. Let's start the clean-up today!

## It's Springtime: Are You Prepared?

By Claudine Schweber, Emergency Preparedness Committee

Yes, winter is (probably) over! No snow, but are you prepared for spring storms, downed trees, and power outages? Since COVID is still with us, although less intense, are the free COVID tests still available? Did you know that the Takoma Park CARE program will check on persons living alone? Plus, since it's income tax time, are you prepared to fend off a different type of storm: tax scammers?



### Spring Storms

To deal with possible power outages, 1) make sure you have a working flashlight and extra working batteries nearby; 2) charge your cell phone now; 3) do not light candles or use the stove for light/heat. Now that your phone works, you can call for help:

- For storm-related emergencies, to include any injury, tree into a structure, or downed power lines that could still be electrified, call 911.
- To report trees down in the roadway blocking traffic, call the Takoma Park Police Department non-emergency number, 301-270-1100.
- For power outages and to check estimated restoration times, call Pepco at 1-877-737-2662 or visit the power outage webpage at [www.pepco.com/Outages/Check-OutageStatus](http://www.pepco.com/Outages/Check-OutageStatus).

### COVID Testing

- Free COVID home test kits now available at Montgomery County libraries, including the Takoma Park Maryland Library, during open hours; patrons can receive two antigen rapid tests and three masks.
- Montgomery County offers free testing, with an appointment. Visit [covidtesting.montgomerycountymd.gov/en-US/](https://covidtesting.montgomerycountymd.gov/en-US/) or call 240-777-2982.
- Several pharmacies also offer COVID Testing. Search online (free COVID tests in Montgomery County).

### CARE Program

Today's realities make it more important than ever to be able to help people who are alone or have special needs. The Takoma Park Police Department's CARE Program can help. Participants call the Takoma Park

Police Dept once daily between 12–5 p.m. If this does not happen by 8 p.m., then the police will call the contact person; if this does not help, then a police officer will be dispatched to check on the participant.

For more information and to register, visit [takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/services-and-programs/caring-about-residents-everyday-care-2](http://takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/services-and-programs/caring-about-residents-everyday-care-2) or call 301-270-1100.

### Income Tax month

Scammers are prepared, so watch out! A scammer is a "person who commits fraud or participates in a dishonest scheme" often by preying on a person's fear or stress. Getting your money by stealing your identity, convincing you to pay for gift cards, and claiming you are owed money are some of the ways scammers operate. All the schemes involve getting personal information from the subject/victim. Here are two of the "popular" scams:

1. Tax Related Identity Theft: In this situation, the scammers obtain info such as social security number, address, birthdate, and other information — and use it to file an income tax return in your name. And thus, get any returns. How would you know? You file a return and IRS says, you've already submitted; or IRS notifies you that an online account has been created for you, but you never requested this. What to do? Contact the IRS at [irs.gov](http://irs.gov) and fill out Identity theft form
2. Refund Recalculation: Scammers email/text you to say you are owed more money. What a wonderful surprise — Not! An email with the IRS logo will ask you to click on a link. When you do, you'll be taken to a web page that asks for information such as your Social Security number, birth date, driver's license number, and other information. Then, scammers will use it to access your online bank and credit card accounts or apply for credit cards and loans in your name.

Again, do not ever post or share personal information. For more information, visit [www.lifelock.com/learn/identity-theft-resources/irs-tax-scams-to-watch-out-for](http://www.lifelock.com/learn/identity-theft-resources/irs-tax-scams-to-watch-out-for).

Contact us at 301-8891-7126 or [tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov). Join us once a month for Dear Bea(trice) Prepared on Talk of Takoma, WOWD/LP Radio 94.3, Sundays 1–3.



## 2022 Takoma Park Small Business Support Grant

The City of Takoma Park is awarding grant funds to support local small businesses in the City.

The Takoma Park Small Business Support Grant is now open for applications!

Learn more and apply now:  
<https://bit.ly/3ttW4wD>.



## 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 አዲስ የዚህ መጽሔት አርክብ ራስዎ ምሽት በሌሎች ቋንቋዎች በመስመር ላይ ማንበብ ይቻላል ትርጉሙን በመጠቀም በታችኛው ከተማ ውስጥ ያለውን ባህሪ የፓርክ ድር ጣቢያ ጠቀስዎትኝ በሰላም ስንገናኝ ላይ ይመልከቱ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥንግ ላይ ታስባላችሁ የአሰሳ አዋጊን ይምረጡና ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልቋይ ሳጥን።

# There's a Poem in This Place\*

By Anne LeVeque

April is National Poetry Month. As you can imagine, this is a pretty big deal in Takoma Park. In the past, there have been poems placed on sign boards throughout the city. Last year, there was a sidewalk poetry contest. You can view the winning poems because they were inscribed into the pavement in a handful of spots around town. (For a map, see [takomaparkmd.gov/news-alert/sidewalk-poetry-contest-winners-announced](http://takomaparkmd.gov/news-alert/sidewalk-poetry-contest-winners-announced).)

The two closest to the library are on Carroll Ave., near Opal Daniels Park, and the 7200 block of Maple Ave. The City plans to stamp more poems into its sidewalks as more sidewalk paving is done. These poems were written by ordinary Takoma Park residents, including children.

Why is poetry important? Isn't it all dead white men? Isn't it just for elite snobs? No! A thousand times, no! Humans have created poetry since we've had the ability to speak, and we've been writing it down since we've had that ability, too. The oldest written poetry that survives is from the ancient Egyptians, written well over 4,000 years ago. The ancient empires of Africa and Asia have given us po-



Nala Miller sitting with her poem

etic works that you can still find in the library or at your local bookstore.

We learn poetry as small children when we learn nursery rhymes. We continue to learn poetry when we learn the lyrics of songs. Many people were shocked when Bob Dylan won the Nobel Prize in Literature a few years ago because he is “only a songwriter.” But for most of human history, poems have been sung, chanted, or rhythmically recited (as in contemporary rap). It's only since more of humanity has become literate, and with an increased focus on the written word, that poetry has been seen as a written art form rather than an oral tradition. Anyone can create poetry (note that I don't say “write” - poems can be composed orally). Children in elementary school are taught to write haiku. Teenagers are notorious for writing deeply emotional poems. Poems are written by all ages and all sorts of people.

\*The headline of this article is taken from a poem by Amanda Gorman, the former (and first) National Youth Poet Laureate who read her work at President Biden's inauguration. Use this link to read and listen to the poem in its entirety: [poets.org/poem/place-american-lyric](https://poets.org/poem/place-american-lyric).

## Poetry Resources at the Library and Beyond

The Takoma Park Maryland Library has an impressive collection of poetry, largely due to the efforts of former director, Ellen Arnold-Robbins. I just checked, and we have something like 60 feet of shelves devoted to more than 3,000 poetry books, and that's just in the Adult section. Additionally, there are many children's books of poetry, and books, like the entirety of Dr. Seuss's oeuvre, that are in verse.

There are many forms of poetry that are

found in other areas of the library: Those ancient texts I mentioned? Those are mostly religious texts, such as the Rig Veda and the Psalms, and are found in the 200s rather than the 800s (in our Dewey Classification). Those texts survived thousands of years because they are religious texts and were considered of utmost importance. In the periodicals section, we have *Poetry* magazine, but also many magazines that publish poetry, such as *The New Yorker*.

In our print reference section, we have the *Encyclopedia of American Poetry*. In our online reference offerings, the Oxford Reference collection has numerous volumes of literary reference books, available with your library card number.

Beyond the library, there are so many places we can find poetry. The Academy of American Poets can be found at [www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org). From its website, you can subscribe to a poem a day, or you can look up

your favorite poem, or even listen to poets long dead read their own poetry ([poets.org/poem/do-not-go-gentle-good-night](https://poets.org/poem/do-not-go-gentle-good-night)). Another online resource is the Poetry Foundation at [www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org) where just clicking through the ways you can search for poems is an education in poetic forms and history.

### DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

■ From page 7

son Barash's *Evening Gardens: Planning & Planting a Landscape to Dazzle the Senses After Sundown* for inspiration. Also, Peter D'Amato's *The Savage Garden* is full of dangerous looking plants that will help maintain any goth's carefully cultivated image.

**"I don't know where to even start."** Unless you are a vampire with questionable origins, we all have to start somewhere. I'm an advocate for starting simple with something like *Super Simple Indoor Gardens: A Kid's Guide to Gardening* by Alex Kuskowski. Or shorten your learning curve with Peter McHoy's *The Ultimate Garden Planner: The Definitive Guide to Designing and Planting a Beautiful Garden* or *Plant Partners: Science-Based Companion Planting Strategies for the Vegetable Garden* by Jessica Walliser (Science is always a great answer.).

Happy gardening, friends!

(Brownie points to anyone who got the Miss Congeniality reference. As much as I love poetry, literary fiction, and epic histories, a part of my heart will always belong to romcoms and trash TV.)

### RECREATION

■ From page 9

55+

#### DROP-IN

##### Bingo (Indoor/Outdoor)

Come try your luck and win a prize! This is drop-in; no registration required. If the weather is nice, we'll have bingo outdoors. If not, we'll have bingo indoors. Host: Paula Lisowski

Takoma Park Community Center  
Senior Room  
7500 Maple Avenue  
55 & Up  
Tuesdays, 12–2 p.m.  
April 26, May 24 & June 28  
Free

#### EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

##### Boost Your Resilience Now!

Join Cynthia M. Luna, national board certified, health & wellness coach, for a timely workshop that provides participants with practical strategies to feel more resilient in their daily lives. Identify ways to leverage personal and environmental factors to boost resilience and develop a personal plan of action to help overcome challenges. Instructor: Cynthia M.



Luna  
Takoma Park Community Center  
Auditorium  
7500 Maple Avenue  
55 & Up  
Monday, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  
May 16  
\$5

#### DANCE

##### Zumba Gold Hybrid

This class is offered on a hybrid basis. You can attend the class in-person or via Zoom on the same day at the same time. Choose the option that is best for you. Registration is required for in-person and on-line via zoom. Only register for one option, in-person or on-line via zoom, but not both. 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 & Virtual  
Dance Room  
7500 Maple Avenue  
55 & Up  
Fridays, 10–11 a.m.  
Spring: April 8-June 17  
Summer: July 1-August 19  
\$5



#### SPORTS

##### Basketball Outdoor Open Play

Join others to practice and play basketball outside on the outside basketball court. Drop-in. No registration is required.

Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Avenue  
Outdoor court  
55 & Up  
Thursdays, 12–2 p.m.  
April 7-June 9  
Free



##### Introduction to Pickleball

Learn the rules and basics of this popular sport. Great physical and mental exercise. Equipment provided. Protective eyewear is recommended. Instructor: Steve Valiant

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
7315 New Hampshire Avenue  
Gymnasium  
55 & Up  
Thursday, 12–2 p.m.  
April 21-June 16  
(No class 5/19)  
\$5



## 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](https://takomaparkmd.gov/careers) regularly for up-to-date information. The most recent available positions are:

- **Victim Witness Coordinator** to provide timely support, advocacy, accompaniment, information and referrals to crime victims and witnesses so that they understand the criminal justice system and are aware of services.

### Summer Camp Positions:

- **Camp Director** to serve as the coordinator for all general recreation camps, for ages 5-12 and 12-17
- **Teen Camp Staff** to assist with planning, organizing, and leading a variety of program activities including crafts, sports and more throughout the summer for teens, grades 6-12
- **Youth Camp Staff** to assist with planning, organizing, and leading a variety of camp activities including crafts, sports and more throughout the summer for ages 6-12

Applications, and details about these and other open positions can be



found at [takomaparkmd.gov/careers](https://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.



## TKPK5K Is Back!

Register now to run the Takoma Park Virtual 5K! This year, you can run your own route individually or with family and friends. Run between May 15 and May 31 to take part in this community tradition that will help fund walking and running programs at our five local schools. To register, donate, or become a sponsor, visit <https://bit.ly/3tYxXVR>.



## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### Takoma Park Arbor Day Celebration

Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
City of Takoma Park Public Works Building, 31 Oswego Avenue

Join us for a celebratory tree walk and community meet-and-greet in honor of Arbor Day. The event will open with a brief talk by the City's Urban Forest Manager, Marty Frye about what you can do to help preserve the urban forest. Marty will then lead a tree walk from the Public Works building over to Takoma-Piney Branch Park, discussing the identification, ecology, and fun-facts of selected tree species along the way. We hope this event can serve as a worthy celebration of trees and to facilitate connections between tree lovers and advocates in the City. For more information, contact Marty at [urbanforestmanager@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:urbanforestmanager@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7612. RSVP on Eventbrite: [www.eventbrite.com/e/takoma-park-arbor-day-gathering-and-tree-walk-tickets-295370580357](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/takoma-park-arbor-day-gathering-and-tree-walk-tickets-295370580357).

### El día de los niños/El día de los libros

Saturday, April 30, 1:30 p.m.  
Takoma Park Maryland Library front lawn

Celebrate with Takoma Park Maryland Library and Teatro La Bolsa! The theater group will present "Compañeras de viaje: Dancing Through Latin America." Learn folkloric dances from five different countries in this interactive, bilingual (English/Spanish) performance for the whole family. Participants are encouraged to bring a picnic blanket, a plush toy, and a scarf to play with! Free program. No registration required. This program is partially sponsored by a grant from REFORMA (an ALA affiliate).

### 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](https://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](https://www.docsinprogress.org/filmmakers).

### Realm of the Real Opening Reception

Thursday, April 28, 7:30 p.m.  
Takoma Park Community Center

Visitors can see artwork by D.C.-area artists Sarah Louise Hyde, Michael Hyman, and Michael G. Stewart. The exhibition will be on view until July 13. It is curated by Brendan Smith, the City's arts and humanities coordinator.

## Spring Book Sale!

The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library is having its semi-annual Book Sale on Saturday, May 14! Donations are currently being accepted at the Library. Please donate only books of general interest (no textbooks please!) and children's books in good condition.



Information and Resources: Covid19  
[takomaparkmd.gov](https://takomaparkmd.gov)

Questions, Comments and Suggestions  
[askus@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:askus@takomaparkmd.gov)



#TogetherTKPK

## VILLAGE OF TAKOMA PARK EVENT

### A Spring Fling: An Intergenerational Gathering

Saturday, May 14, 2 – 5 p.m.  
VFW Post 350, 6420 Orchard Ave.

All are welcome to join the Village of Takoma Park in shaking off the COVID Blues at a gathering to bring in the spring. There will be activities and games, food provided, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages available for purchase at VFW Post 350, music, and raffles. Register at [www.villageoftakomapark.com](https://www.villageoftakomapark.com). Free raffle ticket with each confirmed RSVP.

Masks optional; full vaccination requested.

