Public Space Management Plan: A History

The City is rethinking the way it approaches public space. This includes parks, sidewalks, parking spaces, plazas, streetscapes, and more. This is all happening through the creation of a Public Space Management Plan, which will help City Council and staff make better decisions about projects involving public space. The plan is expected to be completed in Fall 2022, but it’s been in the works for a while. Here’s a summary of what’s been done to date:

- **November 2018:** The Council agrees on the need for a public space plan and approves a scope of work.
- **Fall 2019 to Summer 2020:** Planning, vision staff conduct studies of public park features, levels of resident access to parks, and an inventory of public spaces.
- **Fall 2020 to Fall 2021:** Community input is gathered in the form of an online survey (225 respondents) and an in-person, interactive workshop series.
- **Spring 2022:** The City hires the planning firm, CHP, to help complete the project.
- **Summer 2022:** CHP, planning conducts an existing conditions analysis and develops a first draft of plan recommendations.

New City Website Launch This Fall

The City of Takoma Park has entered into an agreement with CivicPlus to migrate its current WordPress website to CivicEngage®. Its all-inclusive CMS software offers extensive functionality for all areas of government, such as agendas, calendars, bids, news, facilities, and more. The website is the foundation of any organization, and we are no different,” said Takoma Park Communications Manager Donna Wright. “An old, outdated customized website impacts functionality, security, and, most of all, engagement.” With the migration to the new platform, the website will have a modern branded design, extensive functionality, document and image management, online forms, and customized tools. “It has everything we need to inform and empower our residents all in one place efficiently,” Wright said. “We anticipate our project timeline and website launch to happen in Fall 2022.”

Artist Behind Famed Takoma Park Mosaic Dies

Sam Gilliam, the world-renowned artist whose colorful mosaic on a wall near the Takoma Metro Station has greeted both residents and visitors alike since 2011, died on June 25 at his home in Washington, D.C. He was 88.

The mosaic, “From a Model to a Rainbow,” involves hand-blown, Italian glass and marble tiles in a colorful abstract design that measures 14 feet high by 39 feet wide and spans 400 square feet. “Sam Gilliam’s mosaic piece was the amazing culmination of a long community-driven process to bridge the divide between Takoma Park, Md., and Takoma, D.C.,” said Rosalind Grigsby, who helped spearhead the project as the former executive director of Old Takoma Business Association. “Gilliam’s concept, and the work itself, did exactly what the community had hoped—it made the area beautiful, comfortable, and welcoming, drawing people both directions across the boundary line. The mosaic had a bigger impact than people had imagined.”

The artwork was supported by a $250,000 grant from the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities that attracted more than 100 entries from all around the U.S. and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority as part of its “Art in Transit” project. “His mosaic,” From A Model to a Rain...
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 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 Nelvarte at 301-891-7214 or email irmann@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.

City Boards and Committees have the option of continuing to meet on Zoom or may resume in-person 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.

Official City Government Meetings

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POLICE CHIEF’S ADVISORY BOARD
Monday, August 15, 7 p.m.  (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Thursday, August 18, 7 p.m.  (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND COMMITTEE
Monday, August 1, 7 p.m.  (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

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 jessic@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267 as early as possible.

Notice of Takoma Park Nominating Caucus
Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 7:30 p.m.

The Nominating Caucus will convene at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 13, to accept nominations of candidates for mayor and councilmember. The meeting will take place in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium, 7500 Maple Avenue. The meeting is open to all registered voters. Others are welcome to view the meeting. Only qualified voters of the city may place names in nomination or second a nomination.

At the meeting, nominations of candidates for mayor may be made on motion of any voter of the city, and if another voter seconding the nomination, the nominee will be considered a candidate. Nomination of each candidate for councilmember may be made on motion of any voter of their ward, and if that nomination is seconded by a voter of their ward, the person so nominated will be considered a candidate. A person may only accept nomination of one office. The name of each nominee that meets the qualifications of the office shall be placed on the ballot for the November 8, 2022 City Election. Please contact Jessie Carpenter, 301-891-7267 or clerk@takomaparkmd.gov with any questions regarding the Nominating Caucus or running for office in Takoma Park.

City Election
Tuesday, November 8, 2022

2022 is an election year in Takoma Park. City voters will be electing a Mayor and all six City Councilmembers to two-year terms. The Nominating Caucus is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. Election day is Tuesday, November 8.

The election will be conducted by mail! For those who prefer to vote in person, there will be voting at the Takoma Park Community Center (7500 Maple Avenue) on Election Day.

Elections municipales
Martes, 8 de noviembre de 2022

2022 es un año electoral en Takoma Park. Los votantes de la Ciudad elegirán a un Alcalde y a todos los seis miembros del Concejo de la Ciudad por términos de dos años. La Reunión de Nominaciones está programado para el martes, 13 de septiembre de 2022 a las 7:30 p.m. El Día de las Elecciones es el martes, 8 de noviembre.

La elección se realizará por correo. Para aquellos que prefieran votar en persona, habrá votación en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park (7500 Maple Avenue) el Día de las Elecciones.

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

ON JUNE 8
The City Council adopted Ordinance 2022-22 authorizing award of FY23 Community Quality of Life grant funds: Carpe Diem Arts Healthy Families, Healthy Communities Project (HF|HC), $10,000; Community Bridges Inc. Community Bridges Girls Program, $9,000; CREATE Arts Center smartARTKids After-school Art Education Program, $8,000; Dance Exchange FY23 Dance On Cohort, $8,000; Elite Soccer Youth Development Academy Inc. ESYDA Entrepreneurial and Leadership Plus Program, $8,000; Emma’s Torch Pilot Program, $8,000; Enterprise Community Development After-school Program: Arts Enrichment, Academic Support, and Services, $7,500; Ethiopian Community Center Inc. Bilingual Career and Service Navigator Program, $8,000; GB Youth Media GBYM SSL Media Arts Program (Formerly The Promotors), $9,000; Montgomery Community Media MCM Youth Media Academy, $9,000; Per Scholas Inc. NCR IT Job Training, $8,500; So What Else: Takoma Park, $7,500; Upwardly Global Building a Vibrant Takoma Park Through Immigrant Workforce Inclusion, $8,500. (Councilmember Kostiuk abstained.)

ON JUNE 22
The City Council adopted Resolution 2022-16 submitting three MML Legislative Action Requests. The legislative requests supported 1) increasing authority for municipalities to collect revenues, 2) various housing and community development issues, and 3) prioritization of pedestrian and bike safety. The same evening, the Council adopted Ordinance 2022-23 approving a contract for landscape maintenance for streetscape and bioretention facilities with Wetlands Study & Solutions/Davey, at the cost of $57,799 for each of the first two years.

Send submissions to:
Editor: April Motley • jmmotleyeditor@takomaparkmd.gov
Assistant Editor/Director: Angeles Ramirez • angela@takomaparkmd.gov
www.takomaparkmd.gov

The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 12 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, takomaparkmd.gov.

Page 2 | Takoma Park News August 2022

On the DOCK
Thinking About Running for Office? Consider leading and serving your community by running for office

Workshop for Candidates to be Held in August

Have questions about how to run for office, campaign finance, rules about sign placement, etc.? Watch for a notice of a workshop for candidates to be conducted by the Takoma Park Board of Elections. To receive an invitation, contact clerk@takomaparkmd.gov or call 301-891-7267.

Requirements for Candidacy

Any resident interested in running for the position of Mayor or City Councilmember must meet certain qualifications. If you are thinking about running for city office, you must be:

- a registered Maryland voter and a resident of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland;
- at least 18 years of age by the date of the election;
- a resident of the City of Takoma Park for at least six months immediately preceding the election.

For more information on requirements, visit www.takomaparkmd.gov/public-notices/seeking-ap-llicants-for-the-takoma-park-youth-council.

Bottom Cell

Remote controls, thermometers, games and toys, hearing aids, calculators, bathroom scales, key fobs, watches, and electronic jewelry, etc.

Flashlights, radio receivers, transmitters, other devices that require extended running time

C

Speakers, smoke alarms, walkie-talkies, industrial meters, radios

9v

Torches, cameras, radios, musical instruments, toys, and flashlights

D

Battery Recycling Drop-Off Available at Public Works

The City of Takoma Park is committed to offering various recycling programs for residents. The newest program now implemented at the Public Works Department is a battery recycling drop-off. Residents can now bring many types of batteries to 31 Oswege Avenue during office hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. This program is operating in partnership with Call2Recycle, an organization leading the way in battery recycling. The following types of batteries can be accepted (see chart on right):

- Cell phones, tablets, laptops, electric toothbrushes, tools, hoverboards, and scooters
- Cordless and wireless telephones, emergency lighting, drills, and camcorders
- Electric shavers, older laptops, and older cameras
- Short-range EVs, electric bikes, trans, EV charging
- Wheelchairs, emergency lights, fire and alarm systems, universal power supplies, toy vehicles
- Handheld appliances, sewing machines, electric razors, etc.
- Remotes, small toys, thermometers, kitchen timers, graphing calculators, bathroom scales, etc.
- Remote controls, thermometers, games and toys, hearing aids, calculators, bathroom scales, key fobs, watches, and electronic jewelry, etc.

Requirements for Candidacy

Any resident interested in running for the position of Mayor or City Councilmember must meet certain qualifications. If you are accepting contributions, making campaign expenditures, or otherwise actively campaigning.

For questions, please contact the Public Works Department at publicworks@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7633.

Battery Type

Items battery can be found in

Lithium Ion

Cell phones, tablets, laptops, electric toothbrushes, tools, hoverboards, and scooters

Nickel Cadmium

Cordless and wireless telephones, emergency lighting, drills, and camcorders

Nickel Metal Hydride

Electric shavers, older laptops, and older cameras

Nickel Zinc

Short-range EVs, electric bikes, trans, EV charging

Small Sealed Lead Acid

Wheelchairs, emergency lights, fire and alarm systems, universal power supplies, toy vehicles

AA

Handheld appliances, sewing machines, electric razors, etc.

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Remotes, small toys, thermometers, kitchen timers, graphing calculators, bathroom scales, etc.

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Reducing Plastic Use

Here are five ways City residents can use less plastic:
1. Avoid excess packaging. Focus your shopping efforts on retailers close to home to avoid excess plastic packaging. Farmers’ markets, local thrift boutiques, and second-hand bookstores are good ways to minimize the plastic waste in your life.
2. Bring a reusable tote. Trolls of plastic bags are used worldwide each year. When you do your shopping, reuse plastic bags you already have on hand or bring a reusable tote.
3. Remember your mug. It might take a little while to form the habit, but bringing your own reusable mug to your coffee shop can help you avoid throwing a lot of disposable cups in the trash.
4. Exchange bottles for bars. Try out shampoo, conditioner, and soap bars this month. In some stores, you can even find them in paper packaging or with no packaging for an even smaller footprint.
5. Give up gum. Yep—gum is mostly plastic! Consider switching to mint, mint leaves, or another alternative.

Ban the Butt!

If I asked you, what is the most common form of plastic pollution, what would you say? Plastic bottles? Straws? While these are good guesses, they are not the correct answer. Cigarette butts are the most abundant form of plastic waste in the world, with about 6.5 trillion individual butts polluting our global environment. But wait, aren’t cigarette butts made of cotton or paper? No, cigarette butts are primarily plastic.

Cigarette butts are small and tend to go unnoticed, but they are hiding all over everywhere. Contrary to what many believe, cigarette butts are not harmless. They are made of cellulose acetate, a man-made plastic material, and contain hundreds of toxic chemicals. While cigarette filters, or the plastic part of butts, can take up to 10 years to completely degrade, the chemicals they release can remain in the environment for many more years beyond the life of the cigarette butt itself.

These lingering toxins include arsenic (also used in rat poisoning), lead (a poison that can affect the brain development of children), and nicotine. When these toxic plastics are improperly disposed of on the street corner or out the car window, they slowly leach toxins into our natural systems, presenting a serious threat to us and our environment.

Smokers should consider finding natural systems, presenting a serious threat to us and our environment.

Trillions of plastic bags make up the majority of plastic waste. The amount of waste produced is increasing, and it is not the correct answer. Cigarette butts are the most abundant form of plastic waste in the world, with about 6.5 trillion individual butts polluting our global environment. But wait, aren’t cigarette butts made of cotton or paper? No, cigarette butts are primarily plastic.

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The Spotted Lanternfly, Newest Pest to the Neighborhood

By Marty Frey, Urban Forest Manager, City of Takoma Park

The spotted lanternfly is an insect pest that recently arrived in Maryland. It sucks sap from trees and can weaken them but rarely kills them. It is most concerned to tree-of-heaven (Ailanthus altissima), grapes, and nursery and orchard trees. Tree-of-heaven itself is an invasive tree species. The Takoma Park Urban Forest Manager has not yet confirmed a sighting of the spotted lanternfly in the City, but it has been sighted in Montgomery County, which is currently designated as part of the quarantine zone. See the resources links below for additional! information.

What should residents do?
• Maintain the health of your trees, so they can cope with any stress caused by potential spotted lanternfly feeding. This includes matching the soil your tree’s roots are growing in, maintaining appropriate soil fertility, and watering during dry times.
• Check vehicles and outdoor items for spotted lanternfly egg masses, nymphs, and adults before moving them in or out of the quarantine zone.
• Report any sightings of the spotted lanternfly to the Urban Forest Manager and to the Maryland Department of Agriculture via the link below.
• Don’t panic. The current thinking is that we are unlikely to see much impact to our landscape and forest trees from this insect, so extraordinary measures are unlikely to be warranted.

Additional Information
Spotted lanternfly (Lycorma delicatula) is native to China. In 2006, this planthopper spread to South Korea and then in 2014 to Pennsylvania. Since then, there have been confirmed sightings in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. Its favorite host is the tree-of-heaven, also native to China, but is known to feed on a wide variety of plants. The current understanding is that the insect is of most concern to tree-of-heaven, grapes, and potentially nursery and orchard trees. It seems likely that the health impacts to most other species will be minor. However, we must remain vigilant and adapt as new information emerges.

The insect damages these plants in two different ways:
1. The nymphs and adults use their piercing mouthparts to feed off the fluid from the stems or leaves. This causes reduced yield, stunted growth, localized damage, and in some cases, death.
2. A secondary concern is the sugary secretion the spotted lanternfly makes while feeding. This substance is called honeydew and attracts ants, wasps, and other insects and is readily colonized by mold. The mold then causes parts of the plant to blacken, which reduces photosynthesis and may be unattractive.

Resources
For current information please refer to the following links:
• General information https://tinyurl.com/52cde7r
• To report a sighting to the State of Maryland https://tinyurl.com/52cde7r

Other benefits include use of a City of Takoma Park smartphone for City email and phone calls during the term in office, opportunity to attend, without cost, conferences beneficial to the City through organizations such as the National League of Cities and the Maryland Municipal League (MML); and reimbursement of certain other expenses, such as for travel.

Candidates who have submitted their campaign finance registration forms are listed at www.takomaparkmd.gov/elections.

Plan—From page 1

Well represented in planning outreach, including youth, apartment and condo building residents, and cross-departmental City staff.
• Two community workshops (including the one to tune in)
• Fall 2022 (upcoming): CHP presented at the following links:
  • Translation on website www.takomaparkmd.gov

Save the Date: Important Community Meeting on August 23

The City Planning Division invites all residents to share feedback, suggestions, and reflections on the first draft of the Public Space Management Plan. Join us on Sunday, August 23 at 7 p.m. for a community meeting where the draft will be unveiled. To learn more about the meeting and why this is an important tool for shaping public space in the City, visit: www.tinyurl.com/PublicSpacePlan

OFFICE

Charter and Code applicable to the election process in Takoma Park, including Chapter 5:12 Fair Election Practices and Chapter 3:04 Ethics, and that you will file all required campaign finance reports and financial disclosure requirements for candidates.

Salary and Benefits of Mayor and Councilmembers

Beginning with the City Council elected in November 2023, the mayor will receive an annual salary of $32,000. Each city councilmember will receive a salary of $24,000 per year. Elected officials are eligible to receive health insurance benefits equivalent to those of full-time City employees.

Takoma Park News

August 2022
Many City of Takoma Park employees perform important work every day that goes unheralded and unsung, but the city would grind to a halt without them.

Local artist Renee Lachman is honoring city employees in a new series of paintings and charcoal drawings, including sanitation workers, gardeners, crossing guards, and library staff. The exhibition will be on view until Sept. 28 at the Takoma Park Community Center at 7500 Maple Avenue.

“These sanitation workers remind me of Olympic athletes with all their running and lifting of heavy trash, old furniture, yard waste, and broken tree limbs through all kinds of weather,” Lachman said. “During the COVID-19 pandemic, we’ve celebrated the work of doctors, nurses, and firefighters. I wanted to highlight Takoma Park’s other unsung heroes.”

Lachman said books from library staff “provided a lifeline during the pandemic” while crossing guards “cheerfully help our children, parents, and residents cross busy streets safely.” Gardeners maintain seven acres of garden plots along with planting, weeding, and cutting grass on city property.

The City’s Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith organized a public art grant to support the project, and several pieces from the series will become part of the City’s permanent art collection after the exhibition.

“Renee proposed this idea to feature city employees, and we’re very excited about it,” Smith said. “Many city employees often are underappreciated so this is a great opportunity to feature them and their contributions to community life in Takoma Park.”

Lachman has lived in Takoma Park for more than 25 years. She received another City public art grant to paint mural panels that will be installed at the Hillwood Manor Community Garden. She also was the City’s first recycling artist in residence in 2012 at the Public Works Department where she created assemblages with recycled materials.

Lachman received an MFA in painting from George Washington University and a BFA in painting and drawing from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. You can see more of her work at reneelachman.com.
EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Breakfast for Dinner
Turn your favorite breakfast dishes into the main event as dinner options (with a few desserts thrown in just for fun). How about a cheddar-chive strata with fresh salsa? Carrot-potato pancakes with applesauce? Maybe you would prefer a more traditional French toast dressed up with banana and blueberries? Any way you slice it, Tiny Chefs will love tucking into these comforting breakfast classics. There is a non-refundable $4 materials fee (per child) due to the instructor on the first day of class. Heffner Park Community Center 42 Oswego Avenue 4–7 years Saturdays, 9–9:5 p.m. September 7–October 12 Resident: $130 / Non-resident: $150

To the instructor. Instructor: Master Robert a $70 non-refundable uniform fee payable to mental and spiritual strength. There is well as assist with the maintaining of balance. This ancient form of self-defense provides improved flexibility, and self-awareness. Fu. Come learn meditation, self-defense, Bungo Fu is the Jamaican style of Kung martial arts.

Saturdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m. September 16–October 15 Resident: $80 / Non-resident: $70

Kung Fu for Kids
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. Students will gain physical fitness in addition to 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 4–17 years Saturdays, 1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m. Summer: July 9–August 27 Resident: $155 / Non-resident: $175

Basketball Skills (Session 1) This class will teach the fundamentals of the sport. Good Sportsmanship will be emphasized. Participants will be provided with excellent coaching. You will learn proper dribbling, shooting, and defensive techniques. Please contact vince@takomaparkmd.gov for more information. All skill levels are welcome, and registration is required. Takoma Park Community Center Gymnasium 7515 New Hampshire Avenue 6–13 years 7 Week Session Saturdays, 12–1 p.m. September 10–October 22 Resident: $90 / Non-resident: $100

Golf
This class is designed for the novice golfer. This class will focus on the fundamentals of the game, including the equipment, rules, etiquette, and the history of the sport. Instructor: Fred Harllee Takoma Park Recreation Center Outdoor Classroom 7515 New Hampshire Avenue 6 & up 4 Week Session Saturdays, 11:15–11:45 a.m. September 9–October 1 Resident: $65 / Non-resident: $65

Nurture their growth socially and emotionally through teamwork and good sportsmanship.
Instructor: Recreation Staff Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium 7315 New Hampshire Avenue 3–5 years 6 Week Session Saturdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m. September 16–October 15 Resident: $80 / Non-resident: $70

MARTIAL ARTS

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Nature’s Beauty
Come celebrate and enjoy fall. This class will meet in Spring Park, and we will paint, draw, and collage from nature or photos about nature. The class will enjoy the outdoors using the covered picnic tables. Some art materials will be supplied. Have fun and create art! Explore different mediums. Instructor: Alice Sims Heffner Park Community Center 42 Oswego Avenue 16 & up Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.

ADULT

ART

Nature’s Beauty
Come celebrate and enjoy fall. This class will meet in Spring Park, and we will paint, draw, and collage from nature or photos about nature. The class will enjoy the outdoors using the covered picnic tables. Some art materials will be supplied. Have fun and create art! Explore different mediums. Instructor: Alice Sims Heffner Park Community Center 42 Oswego Avenue 16 & up Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.

Takoma Park Community Center 6 Week Session Saturdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m. September 9–October 22 Resident: $60 / Non-resident: $60

GOLF
This class is designed for the novice golfer. This class will focus on the fundamentals of the sport, including the equipment, rules, etiquette, and the history of the sport. Instructor: Fred Harllee Takoma Park Recreation Center Outdoor Classroom 7515 New Hampshire Avenue 6 & up 4 Week Session Saturdays, 11–11:45 a.m. September 9–October 1 Resident: $65 / Non-resident: $65

DanXercise’s mission is to bring you joy and memories through the art of dance. DanXercise specializes 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, 7–8:30 p.m. Summer through August 24 Resident: $90 / Non-resident: $100

ADULT

ART

Nature’s Beauty
Come celebrate and enjoy fall. This class will meet in Spring Park, and we will paint, draw, and collage from nature or photos about nature. The class will enjoy the outdoors using the covered picnic tables. Some art materials will be supplied. Have fun and create art! Explore different mediums. Instructor: Alice Sims Heffner Park Community Center 42 Oswego Avenue 16 & up Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.

Takoma Park News August 2022

The Recreation Department is pleased to again offer both before care and after care at both of our facilities. Morning and Afternoon Addition are held at the Takoma Park Community Center (7500 Maple Avenue), and Before and After the Bell is held at the Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Avenue).
Our emphasis is on providing fun, leisure and recreation programs before and after the school day, while providing a safe environment for children grades K–5. Participants will engage in daily indoor/outdoor group activities and holiday-based events. Children will have time for free play, homework assignments, breakfast (not provided), or simply prepare for their upcoming day in before care. Each afternoon kids will receive a snack, have to complete homework, and enjoy arts and crafts, sports, board games, plays, free play and more!
- Programs operate when MCPS schools are in session.
- Before Care: $1,500 / Non-resident: $1,800
- Hours: 7–9 a.m.
- After Care: $2,300 / Non-resident: $2,800
- Hours: 3:30–6:30 p.m.
- Bundle Discount: Resident: $3,230 / Non-resident: $3,910
- Participants who register for both before care and after care at the same facility in one transaction will receive a discount.
- There is a 20% deposit due at the time of registration.
- The remaining balance will be divided into monthly payments beginning Oct 1.
Everyone has photo albums. This may be your
A Digital Photo Class: Saving Family Photos
for most current information.
All Multi-Media classes subject to change
Multi Media
Free with Recreation Membership
September 12-December 21
Mondays & Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Christian Brown, chbrown138@gmail.com
physical fitness, and more. Instructor:
the practice of karate, one can gain self-
If so, try Karate Self Defense. Through
MARTIAL ARTS
Drop-In: $15
Resident: $60 / Non-Resident: $70
Summer: July 23-September 10
16 & Up
Dance Studio
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Alice Cook
Instructor: Barry Hinderstein
Podcasting
Learn the complete guide to podcasting. From
It was also amazing to network, meet
two future leaders in the field of recreation and the Takoma
Come try your luck and win a prize! This is
Bingo
DROP-IN
KARATE
Karate Self Defense
Are you looking for a new form of exercise? If
zarlbrown138@gmail.com
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Back Room
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
16 & up
Mondays & Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.
September 12-December 21
Free with Recreation Membership
Multi Media
All Multi-Media classes subject to change
due to library renovation. Check ActiveNet for most current information.
A Digital Photo Class: Saving Family Photos
Everyone has photo albums. This may be your
last chance to save treasured family photos,
slides, and documents. You will learn the
basics of using a scanner to create digital
photo files, possible to restore old photos that
have faded, darkened, or lost their original
colors and to remove cracks, tears, and dirt.
Do you know how many photos you have on
your smartphone? Can you locate them? This
class will teach you how to organize, store,
protect, enhance, and use the hundreds, possibly thousands of photographs on your
computer, tablet, and smart phone. Students
will be introduced to programs that make
it easier to work with digital photos. This
includes Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom.
You will be able to use these programs on the
MAC computers in the Multi-Media Center.
We will explore the use of free programs,
such as GIMP. Students will learn how to
scan photos, especially old and damaged family
photos, for the purpose of retouching and
restoring. Written material will be provided.
Instructor: Barry Hinderstein
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Multi Media Lab
18 & up
Saturdays, 7–9 p.m.
September 6-September 27
Resident: $45 / Non-Resident: $50
Podcasting
Learn the complete guide to podcasting. From
figuring out the best format and content to
producing, recording, and editing your audio
before publishing. Students will get a step-
by-step guide to brainstorming, producing,
editing, and distributing a podcast. Instructor:
Isaac Asare
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Multi Media Lab
18 & up
Saturdays, 7–8:30 p.m.
October 17-November 7
Resident: $240 / Non-Resident: $270
Video Editing Fundamentals
Learn to edit using Adobe Premiere Pro. This
course will teach you how to edit a video
project and upload to YouTube. Elements of
editing will include adding graphics, adjusting
audio, adding music, and adding transitions.
Students with personal video projects may
bring them to practice. Instructor Name:
Isaac Asare
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Multi Media Lab
18 & up
Saturdays, 7–9 p.m.
October 18-November 15
Resident: $275 / Non-Resident: $305
Videotaping Fundamentals
Learn the basic videotaping principles and
how to apply them to everyday videotaping
with any device. This course will teach you
how to get the best lighting, framing, sound,
and proper camera movements. Students are
encouraged to bring a video recording device,
but it’s not required for class. Instructor
Name: Isaac Asare
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Multi Media Lab
18 & up
Saturdays, 7–8:30 p.m.
October 18-November 15
Resident: $275 / Non-Resident: $305
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:
Alicia Cook
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
16 & up
Saturdays, 10:15–11:15 a.m.
Summer: July 23-September 10
Resident: $60 / Non-Resident: $70
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:
Alicia Cook
Takoma Park Community Center
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Dance Studio
16 & up
Saturdays, 10:15–11:15 a.m.
Summer: July 23-September 10
Resident: $60 / Non-Resident: $70
Drop-In: $15
ART
Crocheting Group
This group meets once a month in class, such as decorating
vases, painting ceramic tiles, creating table
decorations, and making a holiday project.
55+
ART
Art and Crafts
This course covers a variety of quick art and craft
projects. Have fun and learn a new skill
to bring your own mats. Instructor: Jeremy
Lisowski
Takoma Park Recreation Center
55 & up
6 Week Session
September 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23
City Room
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Lilac Room
Resident: $140 / Non-Resident: $160
September 6-September 27
Saturdays, 7–9 p.m.
55 & up
Tuesdays, 12–2 p.m.
September 27 & October 25
Free
Ms. Rhoads agrees, “I had an excellent experience at the conference. I was able to learn valuable information about how one can become a better Recreator. It was also amazing to network, meet other Recreators in the area, and share best practices. I look forward to attending again next year, if possible!”
Ms. Ruiz says, “The conference was a wonderful experience, and the sessions were very informative. It was a great networking opportunity. I would love to attend this conference again.”
Enjoy the supportive and relaxed atmosphere. Supplies are provided. Instructor: Alice Sims
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Lilac Room
55 & up
4 Weeks
Mondays, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.
September 8, 15, October 17, November 21,
December 12
$8
Crocketing Group
Join the group to learn new stitches and
work on your projects in a relaxed, social
atmosphere. Group led by Sue Bracey,
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Lilac Room
55 & up
6 Week Session
Tuesdays, 8:30–11:30 a.m.
September 6-October 11
$6
Drop-In Bingo
Come try your luck and win a prize! This is
drop-in; no registration required. Host: Paula Lisowski
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Lilac Room
55 & up
Tuesdays, 12–2 p.m.
September 27 & October 25
Free
Enjoy the supportive and relaxed atmosphere. Supplies are provided. Instructor: Alice Sims
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Lilac Room
55 & up
4 Weeks
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Recreators Unite!
The Maryland Recreation & Parks Association, Inc. (MRPA) is a nonprofit, professional association affiliated with the National Recreation and Park Association. The mission statement for the Maryland Recreation & Park Association is to unite our members to provide the best recreation and park services throughout Maryland.
Two of the newest staff with the Takoma Park Recreation Department are Chelsea Nunez (School Age Programs Supervisor), and Haven Rhoid (Teens Program Supervisor) attended their first MRPA Annual Conference in Ocean City, Maryland, April 5–7, 2022. They were able to see firsthand how members unite to provide the best recreation and park services.
Chelsea and Haven met recreation and parks professionals from all over Maryland and participated in several educational sessions. Some of the popular sessions they attended included the following:
GUM – Get Up & Move. The Power of Inclusive Play & Creative Movement for All Children, which gave activity leaders tips and ground rules to get kids to be more active, including children with disabilities.
Partnerships – Collaborating for Impactful Programming, which helped identify the stages of a partnership life cycle (identifying/developing, implementing/managing, assessing/revising, and sustaining impact or exiting).
Telling the Story of Parks for Influence, Advocacy and Equity, which focused on learning to promote the importance of Recreation and Parks in residents’ lives by advocating for financial support from elected officials and helping them to understand the challenges recreation departments face when programming for the community.
Ms. Nunez said, “The conference was a wonderful experience and the sessions were very informative. It was a great networking opportunity. I would love to attend this conference again.”
Ms. Rhoid agrees, “I had an excellent experience at the conference. I was able to learn valuable information about how I can become a better Recreator. It was also amazing to network, meet other Recreators in the area, and share best practices. I look forward to attending again next year, if possible!”
The sessions attended and contacts that Chelsea and Haven made at the MRPA Conference will be built upon in the future. Two future leaders in the field of recreation and the Takoma Park Recreation Department. Congratulations and good luck to both!
Library Calendar

**Regular Programs**
We’re continuing to offer many great library programs – weekly and monthly – via Zoom and do rhymes and movement exercises in Spanish.

**Children and Young Adult Programs Calendar**

**Takoma Park News August 2022**

**Special Programs**
Get ready for Kindergarten with a themed story time and activities on Tuesday, August 16 at 1 p.m. Registration encouraged at tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents.

**Library Hours:**
- **Mon-Thurs:** 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- **Fri-Sat:** 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- **Sun:** 12 – 6 p.m.

**Library Computer Center Hours:**
- **Mon-Thurs:** 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- **Fri-Sat:** 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- **Sun:** 12 – 6 p.m.

**Please note our new Computer Center hours - now open the same hours as the library.**

**Older Kids Crafts** - Every Sunday afternoon in the rotunda outside the Computer Center, you will find various art and craft supplies to make independent projects. We’ve been making bracelets, potholders, and knitted chains. Suggested for ages 9 and up.

**Scribbler’s Cabal and Comics Jam** are on hiatus for the summer. Look for these programs in the fall.

**DIRECTOR’S COLUMN**

**Make It!**

By Jessica Jones

I started collecting beadwork more than twenty years ago, although when I bought my first piece, I didn’t know it was the start of a collection. I just knew that I was going to use most of my traveler’s checks on an amazing necklace on a reservation in Wyoming. (Why do you think travel is so expensive?) That piece of beadwork was also the beginning of a deep appreciation for crafts and the beauty, symbolism, and heritage that crafts can convey. Maybe you already have a craft, or perhaps you want to pick up a new hobby, the library has you covered if you are looking for books about honing your craft!

**Needlework and yarn-y things:**
There are few indoor afternoons better spent (in my opinion) than the ones with a good audiobook and an activity to keep your hands busy, like knitting or crocheting. You can make things to keep, to give away, to sell, or to yarn bomb (it’s a thing, and I love it.) Also, can we talk about how many men are taking up needlework? In 2016, the Association For Creative Industries (AFCI) found that 29 percent of knitters and crocheters were men. British Olympic gold medalist Tom Daley could be seen working on sweaters in between dives at the last summer Olympics.

**If you want to be like the cool kids and make stuff out of yarn, we have so many titles for you!** Some of our favorites are:


**CALLIGRAPHER**
In an age where we are constantly presented with typefaces, either on paper or screens, handwriting and calligraphy are a bit of a lost art. If you want to reclaim the written word for your hands, we have some wonderful calligraphy books, including **The Gift Of Calligraphy: A Modern Approach to Hand Lettering** with 25 Projects to Give & to Keep by Maybelle Imasa-Stukuls and **3-2-1 Calligraphy** by John Y. H羡慕 and Beyond by Eleanor Winters.

**Bookmaking:** If you have ever thought it might be fun to make your own books, we are meta enough to have books about books! Check out **Bookbinding Techniques and Projects** by Joseph Cambrais or **Making Mini Books: Big Ideas for 36 Little Projects** by Kathleen McCauley. **Origami:** Continuing with paper-based crafts, we have lots of fun origami books.
I'm writing this while in a COVID-19 induced fog. After two and a half years of this thing, it finally got me, and I have just enough energy to crank out a few words on the topic.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the library has done everything we could think of to help our patrons get through it. I will never forget working on the Circulation Desk on the last day we were open in March 2020. We checked out more than 3,000 items to patrons in one afternoon! I set up an extra check-out station to help move things along, and even so there were long lines. After we closed that day, the place looked like the aftermath of a 90 percent off sale at Nordstrom Rack. Books just tossed every which way, shelves cleared of items. And, if you recall, this was when we thought the lockdown was for a paltry two months.

Just four months after that, we partially reopened for service, but did not open the building. We introduced Books-to-Go, our curbside, touchless book and media service. Books-to-Go was the brainchild of longtime librarian Rebecca Brown. As with many innovations that came about because of the pandemic, we had decided to keep this one. We also have decided to keep the book return bin open at all times instead of just when we're closed to accommodate those who are still uncomfortable coming indoors.

We've evolved in our procedures. For example, when it wasn't clear how the virus was transmitted, we quarantined the books for several days in order for the virus to deteriorate. Once it was clear that this was not a mode of transmission, we stopped doing it.

Our children's programs went online – Circle Time, Spanish Circle Time, Sketch Club, and so forth. The library's weekly staff meetings are still online, even though staff have returned to the office. We find that it enables people who may not be scheduled to be in during that time to participate. Oh, and I am writing this, and editing the rest of the library's newsletter items, from my bedroom, where I am isolating from my spouse, hoping he doesn't catch this.

One year after Books-to-Go began, we opened the library building. We had just welcomed a new library director and were saying goodbye to retiring Childrens and Youth Services Librarian Karen MacPherson. People were cautious about coming back, understandably. We required masks and we had several books about how to survive it.

I'm writing this while in a COVID-19 induced fog. After two and a half years of this thing, it finally got me, and I have just enough energy to crank out a few words on the topic.

Translation on website www.takomaparkmd.gov
Hot vehicle deaths

As of July 29, 2022, 11 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.

Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of July 29, 2022, 30 people have died in fires compared to 44 in 2021.

Multifamily grants

Multifamily, condominium, and cooperative building owners are encouraged to apply for our new grant! Learn more and apply now: https://bit.ly/3pg31RQ

Support services

PASSPORT SERVICES

Passport Services are available by appointment only Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center on the second floor. Appointments are required and can be scheduled by calling 301-891-7100. Passport service hours are subject to change with out notice. For additional information, visit takomaparkmd.gov/services/passports. Questions? Email sofar@takomaparkmd.gov.
**Takoma Park Folk Festival Celebrates In-Person Return on Sept. 11**

By Kevin Adler

The Takoma Park Folk Festival is returning in-person on Sunday, September 11, after two years of virtual performances due to COVID-19.

“We’re calling it ‘regroovinate,’” said Debra St. Charles, this year’s program chair. It’s a combination of re-generation and grooviness... and it represents that we are rejoining and rebuilding.”

“It’s very exciting,” added Gordon Nimmo-Smith, who oversees sound engineering and logistics. “All of us on the committees love producing an in-person festival and engaging with our audience.”

Music will begin with the DC Labor Chorus at 10 a.m. and run through 6:30 p.m. at Takoma Park Middle School. As always, the festival will be free, family-friendly, and filled with music, crafts, food vendors, and community information booths.

However, none of the activities will be held indoors. “To provide greater safety from COVID, we are using the school grounds, but not the inside of the school,” explained festival Chair Robin Steam. With outdoor access, the festival will have four stages, rather than the typical six performance venues. But the two “absent” stages will have time slots on the others. “It’s complicated, but we’re working through the logistics,” St. Charles said.

Subtle differences in the program will be evident to long-time visitors this year. “We’ve really tried to present a more diverse lineup with more people who have not performed before and more styles of music,” St. Charles said.

Among festival first-timers are New Orleans-style blues Sol Roots (left), award-winning singer-songwriter Jillian Manzudan (bottom left), and world music group Project Locura (bottom right).

Among festival first-timers are New Orleans-style blues Sol Roots, award-winning singer-songwriter Jillian Manzudan, and bluegrass group No Part of Nothin’. Also, world music group Project Locura, which won in 2022 Washington Area Music Award, will introduce festival attendees to its fusion sound that jumps across jazz, African, Asian, and Latin American traditions.

Visitors looking for singer-songwriters will be pleased by the return of Michelle Swan and the lush sounds of Quiet the Mountain, a new band of veteran guitarists Christian Allenson and Jimmy Stewart. Plus, the festival also will welcome a youth rock band, stand-up Sambarta Rashik, the Washington Revels Maritime Voices, and much more.

The festival’s non-musical activities will be intact, though renovations at the school have led to changes in the festival’s geography, according to Nimmo-Smith. “We will have the full crafts show and about half of the community tables on the basketball courts, and the kids’ games on the tennis courts nearby,” he said. “The Field Stage will return to Lee Jordan Field below the school, opening up more space for the audience.”

Providing the weather cooperates, the festival’s organizers expect a large crowd. “I’ve really enjoyed seeing live music again,” said Steam, “and I know many other people feel the same. This is a time for us to celebrate—not just music, but crafts, community groups, good food, and friends. It will be so good for all of us to come together again.”

**Translation on website www.takomaparkmd.gov**
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](http://takomaparkmd.gov/careers) regularly for up-to-date information. The most recent available positions are:

- **Deputy Police Chief** to oversee the day-to-day operations of a modern, full-service agency dedicated to policing the City with a highly engaged and community-involved approach.
- **Construction Manager** to oversee construction projects to include sidewalks, traffic calming installations, street repairs, and stormwater management facilities.
- **Human Resources Coordinator** to perform day-to-day operations of assigned HR functions, programs, and activities supporting our workforce.
- **Election and Special Projects Intern** to assist with preparation and execution of the 2022 City Election and to support special projects in the City Clerk’s Office.

Applications, and details about these and other open positions can be found at [takomaparkmd.gov/careers](http://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.

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

**City Council Recess:** The City Council will be on recess in August. Meetings will resume on Wednesday, September 14.

### UPCOMING

#### Annual Play Day

Saturday, September 24, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Road

It’s time for you to let your hair down, put on your comfy shoes, and get ready to play! Let’s Play America and the Takoma Park Recreation Department have teamed up to present this wonderful event! Rain or Shine. This event will have tons of fun activities for the entire family to enjoy, including the infamous Touch-A Truck. To see a full listing of activities and performances, visit [www.letsplayamerica.org](http://www.letspayamerica.org). The event is free and open to all ages. See you there!

#### Annual Play Day

Saturday, September 24, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Road

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### Community ACTIVITIES

#### Volunteer at Crossroads Farmers Market!

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. (Through November 23)

Anne St. at University Blvd. E.

They need help with setting up, breaking down, and various tasks throughout the day. To learn more and sign up to volunteer, visit [www.crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org/event/volunteer-at-the-market-7](http://www.crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org/event/volunteer-at-the-market-7).

#### 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](http://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.docusinprogress.org/filmmakers](http://www.docusinprogress.org/filmmakers).

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It’s time for you to let your hair down, put on your comfy shoes, and get ready to play! Let’s Play America and the Takoma Park Recreation Department have teamed up to present this wonderful event! Rain or Shine. This event will have tons of fun activities for the entire family to enjoy, including the infamous Touch-A Truck. To see a full listing of activities and performances, visit [www.letspayamerica.org](http://www.letspayamerica.org). The event is free and open to all ages. See you there!

#### Annual Play Day

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