**Battery Recycling Drop-Off Now Available** 



Page 7 Recreators Unite

RECREATION



Page 10 **Passport Services** Available by

AT YOUR SERVICE

**Appointment** 



**FEATURE STORY** Page 11 **Takoma Park Folk Festival** 

**Preview** 



## Takoma Park News

August 2022

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 61, No. 8 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**City Offices** & Facilities Closed Labor Day Sun., Sept. 4 - Mon., Sept. 5

## **Trash/Recycling Collection**

## **Summer Collection Hours:**

With summer here and temperatures higher, the City's collection services have shifted to summer hours. Collection for trash, recycling, and food waste now begin at 6 a.m. Please put your items out for collection the night before.

**Public Space Management Plan Community Meeting** Tues., August 23

**Nominating Caucus for City of Takoma Park Election** Tues., September 13

**City Council Summer Recess** Meetings resume September 14.

## takomaparkmd.gov

Check our website frequently for updates.

**See City Election Information on pages 2-3** and in the Fall City Guide inserted with this issue.

## **Public Space Management Plan: A History**

The City is rethinking the way it approaches public space. This includes parks, sidewalks, parking spaces, plazas, streeteries, 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 City Council agrees on the need for a public space plan and approves a scope of work.
- Fall 2019 to Summer 2020: Planning Division staff conduct studies of public park features, levels of resident access to parks, and an inventory of public spaces. [The planning process is delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.]
- Fall 2020 to Fall 2021: Community input is gathered in the form of an online sur-



Presentation during Public Space Values Workshop series in October 2021

vey (225 respondents) and an in-person, interactive workshop series.

- **Spring 2022:** The City hires the planning firm CHPlanning to help complete the
- **Summer 2022:** CHPlanning conducts an
- existing conditions analysis and develops a first draft of plan recommendations. Outreach during this time includes:
- Additional stakeholder focus groups to improve input from voices not yet

PLAN ☐ Page 4

## **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 custom-

ized 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**

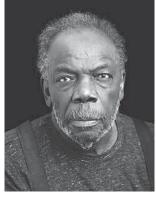
## **By Sean Gossard**

Sam Gilliam, the worldrenowned 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

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

"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



Above, Sam Gilliam. Photo by Fredrik Nilsen Studio

Right, "From A Model to a Rainbow" by Sam Gilliam, Takoma Metro Station Photo by Sam Kittner.



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-

MOSAIC Page 3

**Docket 2 Building Community 3** Arts 5 **Recreation 6 Library 8 At Your Service 10** 

## On the DOCKET

## **Official City Government 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 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.

The public can continue to view meetings as always: on CityTV (RCN – 13, HD 1060; Comcast/xfinity – 13, HD 997; Verizon Fios – 28), on the City Council Video Page of the City Website; on CityTV YouTube, or on CityTV 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 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.

### **CITY COUNCIL RECESS**

The City Council is on recess until September. Regular meetings will resume on Wednesday, September 14.

## CITY BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

## **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Thursday, August 11, 7:30 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting) Thursday, September 8, 7:30 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE**

Thursday, August 25, 7 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

## NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 9, 7:30 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

### 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 jessiec@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 seconds that 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.

## **CityCouncilAction**

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 smARTkids Afterschool 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, \$9,000; GBYouth Media GBYM SSL Media Arts Program (Formerly The Promoters), \$9,000; Montgomery Community Media MCM Youth Media Academy, \$9,000; Per Scholas Inc. NCR IT JobTraining, \$8,500; So What Else: Takoma Park, \$7,500; Upwardly Global Building a Vibrant Takoma ParkThrough 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 biker 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.

## 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.

## Elecciones 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 prefieren votar en persona, habrá votación en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park (7500 Maple Avenue) el Día de las Elecciones



Send submissions to:

Editor: Apryl Motley • tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov Assistant Editor: Sean Gossard • sgossardtp@gmail.com 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.

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# **Building COMMUNITY**



Takoma Park Youth Council

## **Takoma Park Seeks Youth Council Submissions**

Takoma Park is currently seeking submissions to join its Youth Council for the 2022–2023 session, giving middle and high school students in the City a chance to engage with their local government.

The Youth Council was created in 2017 as an advisory committee to the City Council. Its goal is to provide an opportunity for young people in Takoma Park to learn about local government through active participation in the system, advise the City Council on the needs and concerns of Takoma Park youth, and serve the youth of Takoma Park by providing leadership opportunities.

All Takoma Park students who are rising to 7th through 12th



graders are eligible to apply for the 11 open positions. It's usually a four-to-six-hour commitment each month, with meetings every other week on Tuesdays,

Wednesdays, or Thursdays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and occasional weekend activities.

Members must be residents of Takoma Park and maintain at least a 2.5 GPA, among other requirements. Active members are eligible for Student Service Learning hours or a \$40 stipend for attending each meeting.

Applications are due by Sept. 7. To apply, scan the QR code above or visit takomaparkmd. gov/public-notices/seeking-applicants-for-the-takoma-park-youth-council.

## **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 Oswego 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)

The following type of batteries *cannot* be accepted:

- Wet cell batteries
- Car batteries
- Rechargeable LI-Ion >300 Wh
- Lithium primary >25g LI 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, trams, 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.
AAA	Remotes, small toys, thermometers, kitchen timers, graphing calculators, bathroom scales, etc.
9v	Speakers, smoke alarms, walkie-talkies, industrial meters, radios
С	Torches, cameras, radios, musical instruments, toys, and flashlights
D	Flashlights, radio receivers, transmitters, other devices that require extended running time
Bottom Cell	Remote controls, thermometers, games and toys, hearing aids, calculators, bathroom scales, key fobs, watches, and electronic jewelry, etc

## **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; and
- a resident of the City of Takoma Park for at least six months immediately preced-

ing the election. If running to represent a ward as a City Councilmember, you must be a resident of the ward for at least six months immediately preceding the election.

Before soliciting any contributions or making expenditures for your campaign, register with the City Clerk. In addition to the requirements above, you will be asked to provide your name, address, date of birth, contact information, and the name of the position you seek. Candidate registration for the 2022 election began on June 13. There is not a requirement to register before the Nominating Caucus unless you are accepting contributions, making campaign expenditures, or otherwise actively campaigning.

On the campaign finance registration form, you will also be asked to certify that you will comply with all requirements of the Takoma Park

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## **MOSAIC**

■ From page 1

bow,' provides a vibrant and inviting gateway to the diverse Takoma neighborhood," said former Executive Director of the D.C. Arts Commission Ayris Scales for the 2011 unveiling of the mosaic. "Public art is an important tool for economic revitalization and creates a strong community identity. 'From a Model to a Rainbow' is an outstanding demonstration of how public art can be used to beautify the District's neighbor-

hoods."

Gilliam—who's been compared to Jackson Pollack and Mark Rothko—is best known for his colorful, large-scale draped canvases and has had his work displayed at the National Gallery of Art, the Hishhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Museum of Modern Art and Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

In 2011, he told WAMU radio's Kojo Nnamdi that he drew inspiration for his work from D.C.'s

Rock Creek Park, according to an obituary in The Washington Post.

Gilliam was born in Tupelo, Miss., on November 30, 1933, and moved to the D.C. area after graduating University of Louisville and serving in the U.S. Army. He was a former instructor at several D.C. public schools before teaching at the Maryland Institute College of Art, the University of Maryland, and Carnegie Mellon.

For more on Gilliam's work, visit www.pacegallery.com/artists/sam-gilliam.



## **Editor's note**

## English

Look for this icon at the end of 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:

ከታቸ ያስውን ይህን አዶ ይፈልን የዜና መጽሄቶች ክርስዎ ራስዎ ናቸው በኤሎች ቋንቋዎች በመስመር ላይ ማንበብ ይችላል ትርንሙን በመጠቀም በታኮማ ከተማ ውስጥ ያስውን ባህሪ የፓርክ ድር ጣቢያ. ጠቀ ካይረማን በኋላ ስጽሑፉ ክንናኝ ላይ, ይመልኩቱ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥግ ላይ ታንባለች የክሰሳ ክመሌን ይምረጡና ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልቋይ ሳጥን.

August 2022

## **Reducing Plastic Use**

Here are five ways City residents can use less plastic:

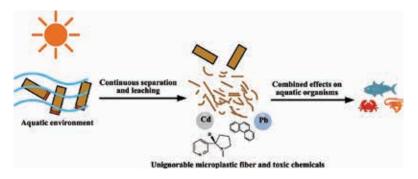
- 1. **Avoid excess packaging.** Focus your shopping efforts on retailers close to home to avoid excess plastic packaging. Farmers' markets, local thrift boutiques, and second-hand bookstores are good ways to minimize the plastic waste in your life.
- 2. **Bring a reusable tote.** Trillions of plastic 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 mints, 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 4.5 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 almost 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. These tiny toxic butts also cause significant harm to our water sources. It is not uncommon for field researchers to find cigarette butts inside of dead sea birds, sea turtles, fish, and dolphins.



It is imperative to ensure that cigarette butts find their way to the waste bin or are sent to a recycling facility. Smokers should consider finding designated smoking areas or carrying their own "pocket ashtrays" to collect their waste.

—Code Enforcement Staff, City of Takoma Park

## 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 unveil the draft).
- Fall 2022 (upcoming): CHPlanning will continue to gather

community feedback on the first draft and develop a final set of recommendations to be reviewed and delivered to City Council for approval.

To learn more about the Public Space Management Plan, visit www.tinyurl.com/PublicSpace-Plan, and join us on August 23 for our next public meeting!



## 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 Tuesday, 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.











A. Egg masses
B. Early nymph
C. Late nymph
D. Adult, wings closed
E. Adult, wings open

Life Stages of the Spotted Lanternfly

## The Spotted Lanternfly, Newest Pest to the Neighborhood

By Marty Frye, 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 of most concern 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 resource 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
  mulching 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/f2pdsps3
- To report a sighting to the State of Maryland

https://tinyurl.com/52ce78zv

## **OFFICE**

■ From page 3

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 2022, 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.

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.

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## The ARTS

# **Unsung Heroes** Art Exhibition Celebrates City Employees

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.



Wanda Hsiung, Library Shelver

"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



Sanitation Crew

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.



Gerard Williams, Sanitation Driver



Harriet Saxton-Alston, Crossing Guard



Phil Shapirro, Instructional Library Associate

## RECREATION

## **TOTS**

### **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 bananas 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, 4-5 p.m. September 7-October 12 Resident: \$130 / Non-resident: \$150

### **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 children to develop motor skills and nurture their growth socially and emotionally through teamwork and good sportsmanship.

Instructor: Recreation Staff

Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium 7315 New Hampshire Avenue 3–5 years

6 Week Session Saturdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m. September 10-October 15 Resident: \$60 / Non-resident: \$70

## YOUTH

## **MARTIAL ARTS**

## 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

(7315 New Hampshire Avenue).

## **FALL CLASS REGISTRATION**

Opens on the following dates at 9 a.m., online & in-person 2022 Scholarship Awardees: 8/9 City of TP Residents: 8/16 Non-Residents: 8/23



### **SPORTS**



#### 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 vincentc@takomaparkmd. gov for more information. All skill levels are welcome, and registration is required. Takoma Park Community Center Gymnasium 7315 New Hampshire Avenue 6–12 years 7 Week Session Saturdays, 12–1 p.m. September 10-October 22

Resident: \$90 / Non-resident: \$100

## Galf

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 Classroom
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
6 & up
4 Week Session
Saturdays, 11–11:45 a.m.
September 10-October 1
Resident: \$55 / Non-resident: \$65

### **TEENS**

## **EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Entrepreneurship for Teens**

Ever thought about starting your own business? Even teens can do it! Entrepreneurship for Teens is an interactive virtual class that centers around a growth mindset, entrepreneurial skills, and business startup. Registration is required for this class; once signed up, you will receive a link for access to the virtual class. Instructor: Tyronda Boone

Virtual Grades: 6–12 8 Week Session Mondays, 6–7 p.m. September 19-November 7 Free

### **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 p.m. September 21-November 9

## **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 can 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.

September 17-October 8 Resident: \$35 / Non-resident: \$45

### **EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT**

## English as a Second Language (Beginners)

ESOL/ESL: This is a beginner's virtual course featuring conversation and vocabulary in English using

daily routines and information. Suggested text for class: *English Through Pictures, Book 1*, by Richards and Gibson.

Virtual 16 & up 6 Week Session

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6–6:30 p.m. September 20-October 27 Resident: \$70 / Non-resident: \$80

#### **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. Summer through August 24 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. Summer through August 25 Resident: \$50 / Non-resident: \$60

**RECREATION** 
Page 7



The Recreation Department is pleased to again offer both

Community Center (7500 Maple Avenue), and Before and

Our emphasis is on providing fun, leisure and recreation

programs before and after the school day, while providing

and Afternoon Addition are held at the Takoma Park

before care and after care at both of our facilities. Morning

After the Bell is held at the Takoma Park Recreation Center

## EXTENDED CARE SCHOOL YEAR 2022–2023 Registration is open!

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.

Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Avenue Before The Bell & After The Bell

Transportation will not be provided through TPRD, Please contact MCPS Transportation (301-840-8130) to change your bus route to (New Hampshire Towers), and we will meet them at the bus stop.

Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue

Morning Addition & Afternoon Addition
Staff will escort participants to Takoma Park Elementary
School and Piney Branch Elementary School.

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 time to complete

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## RECREATION

## **RECREATION**

■ From page 6



#### **Boot Camp (Session 1)**

This total body program includes a circuit of drills, such as jumping jacks, running, pushups, 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 Avenue 16 & up 7 Week Session Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m. September 13-October 27 Resident: \$105 / Non-resident: \$125 Drop-in: \$10

#### 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:
Alice Cook
Takoma Park Community Center

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

## **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, chbrown138@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

## Multi Media

All Multi-Media classes subject to change due to library renovation. Check ActiveNet for most current information.

Free with Recreation Membership

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 smart phone? 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 iMac computers in the Multi-Media Center. We will explore the use of free programs, such as GIMP. Students will learn how to scan photos, especially old and damaged family photos, for the purpose of retouching and restoring. 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: \$55

### **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

October 17-November 7 Resident: \$240 / Non-Resident: \$270

Saturdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

#### **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 4-October 11 Resident: \$140 / Non-Resident: \$160

## 55+

## ART Art and Crafts

This course covers a variety of quick art and craft projects. Have fun and learn a new skill once a month in class, such as decorating vases, painting ceramic tiles, creating table decorations, and making a holiday project.

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, October 17, November 21,
December 12

### **Crocheting 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, 9:30–11:30 a.m. September 6-October 11

## **DROP-IN**

#### Binge

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

**RECREATION** ☐ Page 11

## **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, Chelsea Nunez (School Age Programs Supervisor) and Haven Rhodd (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. Rhodd agrees, "I had an excellent time 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 you both!





now.

#### **Hours**

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

**Regular Programs** 

tplibraryprograms.

**Computer Center hours** Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Friday-Sunday

12 - 6 p.m.

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

We're continuing to offer many great library

programs - weekly and monthly - via Zoom and

in person. To participate on Zoom, 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. If you are registered, we will

or cancellations. Register at www.tinyurl.com/

send reminders as well as notices of any changes

## desk or in the Computer Center.

The library continues to distribute COVID-19

the library's main number, 301-891-7259.

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

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, please call

rapid test kits and N-95 masks. Ask at the front

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.





Neighborhood Circle Time is now outdoors! Join Ms. Kati and Ms. Verónica on the library lawn every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on. In case of inclement weather, Circle Time will be canceled.

Canta Juego: Spanish Circle Time every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom! Join the fun at our weekly Zoom Spanish Circle Time, led by Señora Geiza. In this 30-minute program, kids and adults can sing songs and do rhymes and movement exercises in Spanish. To participate, go to https://zoom.us Click on "Join a Meeting." Then enter Meeting ID: 959-5178-5847 and Meeting Password: 793725. Sponsored by Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

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

## TAKOMA PARK MARYLAND LIBRARY CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULT **PROGRAMS** takomapark.info/library Questions? ¿Preguntas? E-mail Verónica at veronican@takomaparkmd.gov

## **Special Programs**

Get ready for Kindergarten with a themed story time and activities on Sunday, August 14 at 1 p.m. Registration encouraged at tinyurl.com/ tplibraryevents

SummerQuest! Takoma Park Maryland Library SummerQuest reading program is here all summer long! You can still join in. This year's story is Modern Mythology. In ancient days people told stories of powerful beings in control of natural forces. Zeus and Thor were said to be the lords of Thunder; Poseidon was in charge of the Sea; Loki was the master of Trickery and Magic. But what beings might be in charge of modern forces? Satellites and advertising and traffic may have incarnations that assist or trouble us. Find them! SummerQuest is an interactive reading game for all ages from read-to-me to adulthood. Players can pick up a character and game board from

the front desk staff. To move through the story, you read a different kind of book for each section of the game board (adventure, poetry, different cultures, etc.). The game begins whenever you pick up the game board and finishes in the fall. Happy reading!

To keep up with all our programs, go to www. tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents.



### **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. (Way to date yourself, Jessica! Remember traveler's checks?? We've come so far.)

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 crochet-

ing. 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: The Knit Vibe: A Knitter's Guide to Creativity, Community, And Well-Being For Mind, Body & Soul



by Vickie Howell, Kids Crochet: Projects for Kids of All Ages by Kelli Ronci, and The Crochet Dude's Designs for Guys: 30 Projects Men Will Love by Drew Emborsky. I would be remiss to omit my personal favorite: Yarn Bombing: The Art of Crochet and Knit Graffiti by Mandy Moore and Leanne Prain. This is all part of my campaign to get someone to yarn bomb the Library.

Calligraphy: In an age where

we are constantly presented with typeface, 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 Mod-

ern Approach to Hand Lettering with 25 Projects to Give & to Keep by Maybelle Imasa-Stukuls and 1-2-3 Calligraphy! Letters and Projects for Beginners 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 Josep

> Cambras or Making Mini Books: Big Ideas for 30+ Little Projects by Kathleen McCafferty.

Origami: Continuing with paper-based crafts, we have lots of fun origami books.

> MAKE IT Page 9

## **SSL Hours Available This Summer**

**Look for summertime SSL opportunities at** www.tinyurl.com/2p94xbwr.

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## Love in the Time of Covid:

## An Overview of the Pandemic from a Library Perspective

#### By Anne LeVeque

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 weeks

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 have 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



Above, Library shelves cleared of items were a sign of the pandemic.

Below, Four months into the pandemic, the library introduced Books-to-Go.



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 Children and Youth Services Librarian Karen MacPherson. People were cautious about coming back, understandably. We required masks at the direction of the City Manager, and

we placed several air purifiers around the library and computer center. The library staff still masks while at the circulation desk to protect themselves and the public. Some programs are still online, while others are in-person, often outdoors. Circle Time is now on the Library lawn unless it rains.

The library has suspended overdue fines during the pandemic. The only fines a patron will accumulate are for lost books. Overdue books will merely keep you from checking out new books. If you can't find your overdue books, come talk to us! We won't bite, and we will work with you.

One of our more innovative services to come out of this is the distribution of CO-VID-19 test kits along with KN-95 masks. In late January of this year, we began to distribute test kits and masks. To date, we have given out more than 10,000 test kits and close to 13,000 masks. We will continue this as long as we're able, and there is a need. Frequent testing is an important tool for containing this disease.

We no longer require masks while in the library and computer center. However, we strongly encourage it, and have both adult and child size masks to give to patrons. This new variant is highly contagious, and I don't recommend getting it.

The library staff safety protocols have been so effective that in two and a half years, I am only the second staff member to get COVID-19. I don't know where I got it; I'm vaccinated and boosted, as is my spouse. I try to follow good masking practices, so who knows? I'm taking Paxlovid, so I should be fine. I'm just so very tired. And congested. Hopefully, by the time you read this, I will be back at work, fully recovered.

Note: In case you were wondering about the headline, Love in the Time of Cholera is the title of an award-winning book by Nobel laureate Gabriel García-Márquez.



Translation on website www.takomaparkmd.gov

## **Listen to This!**

## By Jessica Jones

This month's podcast review is for *Reply All* hosted by Alex Goldman and Emmanuel Dzotsi, from Gimlet Media, found wherever you get your podcasts. The Guardian describes *Reply All* as, "A podcast about the internet that is actually an unfailingly original exploration of modern life and how to survive it."

My favorite episodes are the Super Tech Support ones, where the hosts attempt to solve some truly baffling technological problems for listeners, like episode #141, where



Domino's Pizza franchises across the country were all receiving online orders for a single \$2 bottle of Coca-Cola that were never picked up. Some episodes have mature language. This podcast has, as of June 2022, ceased production, but there are many, many episodes to enjoy.

La columna de Verónica Rivera-Negrón regresará el próximo mes.

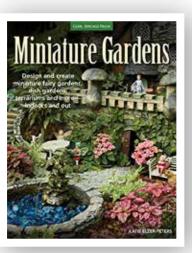
Verónica Rivera-Negrón's column will return next month.

## **MAKE IT**

■ From page 8

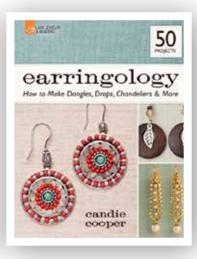
These are all in our juvenile collection, but I believe in Takoma Park's healthy sense of playfulness enough to know that these books transcend any strict agebased categorization. Try Monster Origami by Duy Nguyen, Origami in Action: Paper Toys That Fly, Flap, Gobble, and Inflate! by Robert J. Lang, and Prehistoric Origami: Dinosaurs and Other Creatures John Montroll.

Miniatures: There are multiple library staff members who love tiny things, me included, and we have several books about making miniatures. If you want to watch other people making tiny things while you make tiny things yourself, I recommend the Tiny Kitchen YouTube channel. It's real tiny food! Like the Food Network for Smurfs. Check out Miniature Gardens: Design and Create Miniature Fairy Gardens, Dish Gardens, Terrariums and More—Indoors and Out by Katie



Elzer-Peters and *The Complete Book of Making Miniatures: For Room Settings and Dollhouses* by Thelma R. Newman and Virginia Merrill. And if you want some tiny fiction, we have several books for children starring the Borrowers by Mary Norton.

Beadwork and jewelry making: Deck yourself out with all kinds of jewelry creations! Books like Chain Mail Jewelry: Contemporary Designs from Classic Techniques by Terry Taylor and



Dylon Whyte, *Earringology: How to Make Dangles*, *Drops*, *Chandeliers & More* by Candie Cooper, and *The Encyclopedia of Jewelry-Making Techniques* by Jinks McGrath are a good starting point.

Tangential, but if anyone reading this checks out our copy of Crafting With Cat Hair: Cute Handicrafts To Make with Your Cat by Kaori Tsutaya, please send pictures of what you make. I need to know how it pans out.

August 2022

## At Your SERVICE

## **Did You Know?**

#### By Claudine Schweber, Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee

You are finally going away this August, and you are worried about the safety of your empty house. You are getting notices of burglaries, and you wish there was an expert help to set up security measures. You are also worried your smoke alarms may be out of date.

Did you know? There are free services to check on vacant houses, there's a home security survey to help you limit burglar access; fire services will come to personally check on or install your smoke alarms. You didn't know? Here's the info:

## **Vacant House Check Program**

The Takoma Park Police Department offers a house check program to City residents who are away for 4–30 days. If you are planning on going on a vacation, and no one will be staying at your house, you may be eligible to request a vacant house check on your home.

House Check Criteria: Only single-family dwellings, duplexes, and townhouses will be checked. House checks will be conducted when:

- The occupants will be absent for at least four, but not more than 30, days, and
- The house will not be occupied by house sitters or others during the period.

The house check program involves a Takoma Park Police Officer visiting your home once a day during your absence and inspecting the premises for any signs of suspicious activity. To take advantage of this program, call the Police Dispatcher at 301-270-1100, and request a vacant house check registration, or visit the link below for the application to submit an online registration. You will need to include information about the duration of your

absence, vehicles parked in the driveway, emergency notifica-

tion information, etc. Note: Contact the police before you leave. https://takomapark.seamlessdocs. com/f/Vacant\_House\_ Check\_

### **Home Security**

You can limit a burglar's access to your house. Takoma Park Police offer a home security survey free of charge. A residential security survey is an inspection of your home, performed by a police officer, to identify possible improvements to the physical security of your residence and to review personal safety and security habits. The goal is to decrease the likelihood that you might be victimized by a crime. Home security surveys are offered to homeowners living in the City of Takoma Park by appointment. They generally take about an hour of your time and can be set up during

evening hours. To schedule a residential home security survey, contact the Takoma Park Police Department at 301-270-1100.

## **Fire Safety**

You can find out if your smoke alarms are working as they should; where they should be placed and when they need to be tested; Plus, where to get alarms for the deaf and hard of hearing...and more.

Montgomery Fire and Rescue Service offers free home safety checks to residents of Montgomery County, Maryland (www. montgomerycountymd.gov/mcfrs-info/firesafety.html). If there's an urgent or immediate need related to smoke alarms, call the Montgomery County non-emergency phone number (301-279-8000).

So, now you know. Go for it!

Contact us at tpepc@takomaparkmd. gov or 301-891-7126. Listen to Bea(trice) Prepared the first Sunday of each month at 1 p.m. on WOWD/Talk of Takoma. Email questions to talk@takoma.com.



## THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

## **Maryland fire deaths**

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of July 29, 2022, 36 people have died in fires compared to 44 in 2021.

## 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.



## **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 without notice. Whenever possible, office closures will be announced on Facebook, Twitter, and the City's website. Please note the following:

- The City of Takoma Park does not process the DS-82 Renewal Application, which is a mail-in only Application. All forms must be written clearly with no mark outs, scratch outs, etc.
- $\bullet\,\,$  Do not sign your forms before you meet with the Passport Agent.
- The City of Takoma Park has no control over passport processing times

For additional information, visit takomaparkmd.gov/services/passports. Questions? Email sofiav@takomaparkmd.gov.



Translation on website www.takomaparkmd.gov



Multifamily, condominium, and cooperative building owners are encouraged to apply for our new grant! Learn more and apply now: https://bit.ly/3Pgp3fQ



Sign up for the Takoma Insider—the City's bi-monthly digital newsletter. Get the latest news, announcements, and information on City operations and programs! Subscribe now: https://bit.ly/3e3NDQ9

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## 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 CO-VID-19.

"We're calling it 'regroovinate," said Debra St. Charles, this year's program chair. "It's a combination of regeneration and groovy ... and it represents that we are rejoicing 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 Stearn. Without indoor 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





Among festival first-timers are New Orleansstyle blues Sol Roots (left), award-winning Jillian Matundan (bottom left), and Project Locrea (bottom right).

singer- songwriter world music group



New Orleans-style blues Sol Roots, award-winning singer-songwriter Jillian Matundan, and bluegrass group No Part of Nothin'. Also, world music group Project Locrea, which won a 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 singersongwriters will be pleased by the return of Michelle Swan and the lush sounds of Quiet the Mountain, a new band of veteran guitarists Christian Alfonso and Jimmy Stewart. Plus, the festival also will welcome a youth rock band, sitarist Sambarta Rakshit, the Washington Revels Maritime Voices, and much

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 Stearn, "and I know many other people feel the same way. This is a time for us to celebrate—not just music, but crafts, community groups, food, and friends. It will be so good for all of us to come together again."







## RECREATION

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## DANCE

## **Line Dancing**

Line Dancing is great physical and mental exercise. Strengthening of bones and muscles, weight loss, increased stamina and flexibility, and stress reduction are just some of the benefits of dancing. Learn how exercise can be fun with music. No experience necessary. Register for one line dance class only, not both. Choose the class that fits your schedule. Instructor: Barbara Brown Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue Dance Room 55 & up Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. September 6-October 18 Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. September 7-October 19

## **Zumba Gold**

Designed for active older adults who are looking for a modified Zumba class that recreates the original moves they love at a lower intensity, this class introduces easy-tofollow Zumba choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion, and coordination. Register for one in-person Zumba Gold class only. Choose the class that fits your schedule. Instructor: Yesika Flores Takoma Park Community Center Dance Studio 7500 Maple Avenue 55 & up Wednesdays, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

## **FITNESS**

## **Enhance Your Fitness**

A great total body workout using low-impact aerobic movement and gentle resistance training, this class focuses on increasing strength, balance, and flexibility through stretching, breathing, core training and proper posture alignment using standing and seated exercises including warm-up and cool down routines. Instructor: Adriene Buist 55 & up

Tuesdays, 8:45-9:45 a.m. September 6-October 18

## Foundational Fitness 55+

The program is designed to enhance strength, decrease fall risks, increase physical fitness level, improve cardiovascular capacity and range of motion, and enhance general sense of well-being. Class utilizes a high back chair, light hand weights, and/or a resistance tube. Have a towel and water bottle nearby. Instructor: Michael Williams Virutal 55 & up Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10-11 a.m. September 6-October 20





## Tai Chi Strength

Begin with meditation and stretching followed by Tai Chi forms and balance exercises to build strength and endurance. End with cool down exercises. Instructor: Master Robert Thompson Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue Dance Room 55 & up Tuesdays, 12-1 p.m. September 6-October 18

## Yoga for 55 plus

This class is about the gentle flow of yoga poses modified to an individuals' needs depending on their balance level. Improve balance, flexibility, posture, and stamina and energize mind and spirit for better health and well-being. No experience needed. Students must bring their own yoga mats. Instructor: Sarita Lama Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Avenue Gymnasium 55 & up Tuesdays, 12-1 p.m. September 6-October 18

## **Yoga for Healthy Aging**

This class helps build strength, endurance, flexibility, and range of motion and improve posture and balance as well as aiding in preventing/reversing bone loss related to osteoporosis using seated, standing, and floor poses and breathing and relaxation techniques. Students need to provide their own yoga sticky mats, a yoga belt (or equivalent, e.g., a necktie), a tennis ball, preferably a yoga block, and a blanket. Instructor: Carol Mermey Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue Dance Room 55 & up Fridays, 12-1 p.m. September 9-December 9

## **SPECIAL EVENT**

## **Family Outdoor Movie**

Free

The movie will begin around dusk at E°d Wilhelm Field (behind Piney Branch Elementary School). Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a movie under the stars with your family! The movie will be a familyfriendly "G" or "PG" rated hit. The Recreation Department will provide one small bag of popcorn per person and water. Due to limited parking, walking to the event is encouraged. Ed Wilhelm Field Behind PBES All ages Saturday, September 10 Starts at dusk

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September 7-October 19

# Community ACTIVITIES

## **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 **takomapark-md.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.

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.

## **ONGOING**

### 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,

## **Historic Takoma Reading Room**

Sundays (first and third) 7328 Carroll Avenue Visitors will have access to reference books on Takoma and Maryland history, the collection of Takoma Voices and City newsletters, historical journals, and more. Historic Takoma is also hosting the Maryland Reference Collection of the Takoma Park Maryland Library during the library's renovation. Historic Takoma volunteers will be available to answer questions about the collections and Historic Takoma. Reading Room hours will be 1 – 4 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of each month. historictakoma.org

## **Docs In Progress**

Doc In Progress is offering programs ranging from beginner filmmaking

and storytelling workshops to workshops for emerging filmmakers looking to polish their skills in camerawork, editing, and more. For more information, visit www. docsinprogress.org/filmmakers.

### **UPCOMING**

### **Annual Play Day**

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

Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Road

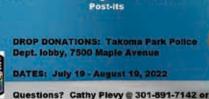
It's time for you to let your hair down, put on your comfy shoes, and get ready to play! Let's Play America and the Takoma Park Recreation Department have teamed up to present this wonderful event! Rain or Shine. This event will have tons of fun activities for the entire family to enjoy, including the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



## BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACK DONATION DRIVE SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Loose-leaf paper (thin & wide rule)
Subject dividers
Spiral notebooks
Pocket folders
Pencil pouches
No. 2 pencils
Crayons
Markers (washable & permanent)
Colored pencils
Erasers
Glue sticks
Rulers

Scissors
Highlighters
Pencil Sharpeners
Pens (blue & black)
Calculator
Composition books
Plastic school box
Assorted construction
paper
Tissues
Lunch box
Index cards
Book covers
Organizer/Calendar
Post-its



17 Shift

cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov



## Wordsmith wanted.

The City of Takoma Park is looking for an editor for the monthly *Takoma Park*News and quarterly City Guide.

If you're interested in receiving a Request for Proposal (RFP) for this position, email donnaw@takomaparkmd.gov.



The City of Takoma is an Equal Opportunity Employe

## SAVE THE DATE!

25th Anniversary of Unification Program Sunday, September 25 2 - 4 p.m.





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