**BUILDING COMMUNITY** Page 3

Meet Takoma Park's **New Housing** Manager



THE ARTS Page 5 Gallery

Make Art or Take Art at the Free Little Art



AT YOUR SERVICE Page 10

**Routine Clearance Pruning for Street** Trees



COMMUNITY **ACTIVITIES** Page 12 Winter Coat Drive



## Takoma Park **News**

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 61, No. 11 🔳 takomaparkmd.gov

## **Holiday Closure Calendar**

**Christmas** Monday, Dec 26

**New Years Day** Monday, Jan 2

Martin Luther King Jr. Monday, Jan 16

## **Route Walk & Ride for Two New Bikeway Projects**

**Stop 1: Metropolitan Branch Trail Upgrade** Sat, Dec 3, from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Stop 2: New Ave Bikeway -**Section D** Sat, Dec 3, from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

## **Direct Cash Assistance In-Person**

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 Time: 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm Takoma Park Maryland Library

Thurs, Dec 8, 2022 10:00 am - 1:30 pm Takoma Park Community Center



## Look for this Icon throughout this

issue See page 10 Ver página 10 *ገ*ጽ 10ን ይመልከቱ

## takomaparkmd.gov

Check our website frequently for updates.

## **Takoma Park elects new council and mayor**

## By Sean Gossard

Former Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart presided over her final city council meeting on Monday, Nov. 21, to swear in the newly elected members and welcome new Mayor Talisha Searcy.

There were plenty of tears and laughs at the meeting, as departing Councilmembers and the mayor said goodbyes and thanks to colleagues and supporters.

Councilmember Searcy took the time to thank her colleagues before being sworn in as Mayor Searcy. "This has been such a collaborative group of people where we may not all agree, but everyone is so solution-oriented that we advance issues in a way that benefits the entire community."

She also took time to thank Mayor Stewart. "I am so grateful for your mentorship and your tutelage and just really helping me along the way," she said. "I will truly miss you as mayor but I definitely look forward to working with you in your new role as County Councilmember of District 4. Thank you all so much."

Stewart also thanked her supporters, family and colleagues in city government: "First, thank you, so much to everyone, the whole community. I want to start with our city staff, you are all remarkable people. The deep caring you have for our community is astounding to me and I just want to thank from the bottom of my hear, each and every one of you. To my friends and community members who came out tonight. I so appreciate all of your support over the years. To my family, I started this when my kids were in middle school and now one is pretty much done with college and the other is in college. This has always been a family affair. In particular, I want to thank my husband for always being there, even at 3 and 4 a.m. And I want to thank my mother-in-law who has always been a huge source of strength in my life and an inspiration and for making sure my family is fed and I'm taking care of myself."

Takoma Park residents went to the polls



The new Takoma Park Council is, from left, Randy Gibson, Terry Seamens, Cara Honzak, Mayor Talisha Searcy, Shana Fulcher, Cindy Dyballa and Jason Small.

came out on Election Day or voted by mail to cast their ballots for local elections for a total turnout of 49.77%. There were 734 ballots cast in-person on Election Day, 2,771 mail-in ballots received before Election Day and 2,251 mail-in ballots received on or after Election Day.

With 2,974 votes, Searcy was elected as the city's newest mayor, replacing Stewart, who was elected to a seat on the Montgomery County Council in the new District 4. As for the new council, Shana Fulcher will represent Ward 1, Cindy Dyballa for Ward 2, Randy Gibson for Ward 3, Terry Seamens for Ward 4, Cara Honzak for Ward 5, and Jason Small for Ward 6, according to the city's Board of Elections.

The regular terms for councilmembers and the mayor is two years. The next citywide election will be in November of 2024. Takoma Park is divided into six wards. The mayor is elected at large. City councilmembers are elected by ward.

Takoma Park uses ranked-choice voting, meaning residents rank candidates in order of preference instead of choosing just one. The first candidate that receives more than 50% of the vote is then the winner. Rankedchoice voting is meant to ensure that winning candidates have support of the majority of voters. It can also reduce negative campaigning as candidates may benefit by encouraging voters to rank them as a second choice in the event a voter's first choice does

not receive a majority.

Members of the community filled the city auditorium for the swearing-in ceremony with some paying tribute during public comments to their departing council members.

Susan Rosenblum, a resident of Ward 3 since 1995, spoke in praise of former Councilmember Kacy Kostiuk, who did not seek reelection for her seat, saying she's "an example of how leadership does not necessarily mean the loudest voice in the room. Kacy listens, does research and pushed the issue forward until It's resolved."

Robert Lanza, a resident of Ward 1 since 1998, came out to thank Peter Kovar, who was elected to city council in 2015 and is now retiring. "I want to particularly thank Peter for his office hours, I greatly appreciated you taking the time to talk with your constituents about issues and your decision making," Lanza said. "Thank you for your service and congratulations on your upcoming retirement."

Troy Jacobs, of Ward 5, spoke to thank former Mayor Stewart, as well as Kovar, Kostiuk and outgoing Ward 5 Councilmember Jarrett Smith. "Fortunately we live in a jurisdiction where we respect the outcome of votes, strive to bring voice to government and build a more progressive Takoma Park. I thank you very much and look forward to

on Tuesday, Nov. 8, to vote on a new mayor as well as who would be representing them

in the city's six wards.

**Docket 2** 

Of Takoma Park's 11,743 registered voters, 5,844 residents 16 years old and above

## ELECTION D Page 4

| MAYOR                |        |        |        |        |        |        |       |         |         |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|---------|---------|
| Candidate            | Ward 1 | Ward 2 | Ward 3 | Ward 4 | Ward 5 | Ward 6 | Total | Percent | Result  |
| Grimes               | 432    | 295    | 409    | 223    | 148    | 152    | 1,659 | 29%     |         |
| Searcy               | 701    | 691    | 658    | 321    | 168    | 435    | 2,974 | 52.1%   | Elected |
| Smith                | 263    | 160    | 307    | 83     | 177    | 71     | 1,061 | 18.6%   |         |
| Write-In             |        |        |        |        |        |        | 18    | .3%     |         |
| Total Valid<br>Votes | 1,396  | 1,146  | 1,364  | 627    | 493    | 658    | 5,712 | 100%    |         |
| Winning<br>threshold |        |        |        |        |        |        | 2,857 |         |         |

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

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

**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 lso 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 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.

## **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 SCHEDULE**

**Wednesday, November 30** – City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

**Wednesday, December 7** – Joint Meeting with the 20<sup>th</sup> District Delegation, 6:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

## CITY BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Check the calendar on the City website for the most up to date information. www.takomaparkmd.gov and click on "Events and Meetings." City boards and committees will be meeting on Zoom during the fall of 2022. After that, they will have the option of continuing to meet on Zoom or may resume inperson/remote hybrid meetings.

## **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Thursday, December 8, 7:30 p.m. ( Remote/Virtual Meeting)

## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE**

Thursday, December 15, 7 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

## **GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, December 6, 6:30 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

## NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 13, 7:30 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

## **POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD**

Monday, December 12, 7 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

## RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 15, 7 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

## SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND COMMITTEE

Monday, December 5, 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.

## CityCouncilAction

The following resolutions and ordinances were recently approved by the City Council. Only negative votes or abstentions are reported here. Resolutions and ordinances are published online after adoption.

## **OCTOBER 19, 2022**

- Ordinance 2022-43 Amending the Takoma Park
- with the state is not contingent with state law.
- with the state is not contingent with state law.
  Charter Amendment 2022-2 Amending the

## Applications Now Being Accepted for City Boards

and Committees

The City Council welcomes residents with all different types of experience and knowledge to apply to serve on boards and committees. Your experience living in Takoma Park and interacting with our community on a daily basis and/or working in your chosen profession can give you what you need to participate.

City boards and committees are appointed by and report to the City Council and focus on a particular priority area. Meetings are open to the public and residents are welcome to observe anytime.

Appointed board and committee members will receive \$40 for each meeting attended.

To apply, go to https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/boardscommissions-and-committees/.

The City Council is now accepting applications for the following. *The application deadline is Monday, January 23.* 

**Arts & Humanities Committee:** Focuses on matters relating to the arts and encourages the appreciation and participation of City residents in the arts and humanities.

**Emergency Preparedness Committee:** Assists in City planning and preparations for emergency operations and engages residents in how to plan, prepare, and recover from emergencies.

**Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee:** The Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee oversees implementation of and adherence to the Takoma Park Nuclear Free Zone Act.

**Sustainable Maryland Committee (Green Team):** Supports City efforts to achieve Sustainable Maryland certification, which in turn helps the City Council to meet its environmental goals and priorities.

## **Recreation and Community Engagement Committee:**

Concentrates on serving the varied recreation needs of our residents, emphasizing youth, seniors, and diverse resident backgrounds, on uses of City facilities, and on a wider range of related community needs such as health, leisure, education, enrichment programs.

**Board of Elections:** Plans and conducts all our City elections in coordination with the City Clerk. The Board also does voter education and outreach in our community and reviews City election laws and procedures after an election to recommend changes as needed.

**Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA)**: Represents the interest of tenants and landlords and hears cases in matters affecting rental housing in Takoma Park. Landlords and rental property managers are particularly encouraged to apply.

**Ethics Commission:** Certifies compliance with state and city ethics requirements hears complaints on potential City ethics violations and advises on how the City ethics law applies to covered individuals.

Ethics Ordinance (Chapter 3.04 Ethics). The amendments were needed because of state legislation amending the Maryland Public Ethics Law to define quasi-government entity, impose additional prohibitions on receipt of gifts, address certain disclosure requirements, and protect the privacy of public employees and officials.

## **OCTOBER 26, 2022**

Charter Amendment Resolution 2022-1
Updating the Charter Amendment Process
to Conform with Maryland Code. Some of
Takoma Park's Charter provisions related to
public hearings, advanced notice, and other
language designed to ensure the public is
notified of a proposed charter change are no
longer consistent with State law. Similarly,
language addressing effectiveness of a charter
amendment being contingent upon registration

City Charter to Update the Personnel Appeals Process. The amendment was needed to ensure that the charter is consistent with the restructuring of the City's advisory committees and quasi-judicial boards effected by adoption of Ordinance 2021-39.

- Resolution 2022-40 Providing for an Appointment to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs. Lauren Price, Ward 4, was appointed.
- Resolution 2022-41 on Pedestrian and Transportation Safety. The resolution directed staff to develop and present revised traffic calming, sidewalk request, and street safety policies and prioritization procedures for City Council consideration, with a status report for the City Council within six months. Additionally, the resolution endorsed continuing periodic meetings between City representatives and the State Highway Administration.

Questions? Contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, jessiec@ takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267.



# **Building COMMUNITY**

## New Funding Accelerates Safe Bikeways Development

Fall 2022 was a good season for new bikeway projects in Takoma Park! Regional and state agencies awarded the City's Housing and Community Development Department three grants totalling \$434,000. The funds support design work on three projects, crossing through four different wards.

## Metropolitan Branch Trail Upgrade

The City maintains a nearly half-mile stretch of the Metropolitan Branch Trail (MBT), which runs along the WMATA Red Line train tracks. \$60,000 of technical support was awarded to begin concept (30%) designs to improve the trail to current bike trail standards of safety and comfort. This could include widening, enhanced lighting, new surfaces that minimize cracking from tree routes, improved pedestrian crossings to access the trail, and other amenities.

## **New Ave Bikeway - Section D**

Designs for the first two sections of the New Ave Bikeway, a separated, two-way multi-use path and bikeway along the southbound side of New Hampshire Ave, are nearly complete. However, the current sections (A&B) stop at Poplar Ave. \$70,000 of technical support has been awarded to begin concept (30%) designs to extend the New Ave Bikeway to the DC border at Kan-





sas Ln, where they connect to existing bike networks in the District.

## Maple Avenue Connectivity Project

The largest grant award, \$304,000, will go toward the complete redesign of Maple Ave, from the DC border to Sligo Creek. Maple Ave is one of the largest and busiest city-owned streets in Takoma Park, for people walking, riding bikes, taking transit, and driving. These funds will revisit and revise the existing concept (30%) designs and then, over the two years of the grant, advance the designs to completion. Along the way, funds have been set aside to conduct robust community outreach and perform a feasibility study for the addition of safe bike and pedestrian facilities to cross the Maple Ave bridge over Sligo Creek.

Each of these projects represent a need that the Department has heard repeatedly from community members. However, their success will also depend on continued robust and thoughtful engagement. To learn more about each of these projects-their timelines, opportunities to engage, and more-search for them by name on the City's website, takomaparkmd.gov, or in your web browser of choice.

## **New Bike Project Walkthrough on 12/3**

#### ity staff to share input as we



## **Too Much Noise!**

Fallen leaves are everywhere and so are yard care contractors with their noisy gasoline powered leaf blowers! Takoma Park shares a border with the District of Columbia which passed legislation that bans the use of gasoline powered leaf blowers in the District. Although Takoma Park has no such restrictions, homeowners could request their lawn care contractors to use battery powered or electric leaf blowers instead of gasoline. Why wait for legislation?

A lack of noise is offensive to no one and in addition to the noise, the gasoline powered blowers contribute to our air pollution issues. Please use your power as a consumer and help to eliminate gasoline powered leaf blowers in Takoma Park.

## Meet Takoma Park's New Housing Manager

## By Sean Gossard

Takoma Park welcomed its new Housing Manager, taking the reins over the division responsible for ensuring safe, decent, and affordable homeownership and rental opportunities for city residents.

Devin McNally joined Takoma Park from the Sacramento area in October, marking a big move from California's bustling capital region.

"That included the area from Sacramento all the way to Lake Tahoe," he says. "We covered everything from people living in the middle of the woods to Mark Zuckerberg's mansion. There was always something new."

But the D.C. area enticed McNally with its more progressive polices, particularly in the housing field.

"Takoma Park has such a wide housing portfolio," McNally says. "It's one of the few places with rent stabilization that's working to keep people in their homes. The average renter in Takoma Park has been in their apartment 17 years as opposed to around 4



Join City staff to share input as we begin work on two of our new bikeways projects. Each event will feature a full site walkthrough and conversation about options, possibilities, and concerns. Join us for one or both! Also, there will be an optional bike ride from one site to the other, for those looking to stretch their legs!

## Stop 1: Metropolitan Branch Trail Upgrade

Saturday, December 3 @ 11:00-12:00pm *Meeting Point*: Intersection of Takoma Ave and Albany Ave

## Stop 2: New Ave Bikeway -Section D

Saturday, December 3 @ 1:00-2:00pm *Meeting Point*: Intersection of Poplar Ave and New Hampshire Ave



To learn more about each project and check for event details or changes, search for each project by name at takomaparkmd.gov. years for the rest of the county."

McNally says that he has three goals to help residents of Takoma Park, including increasing outreach to help tenants understand their rights and landlords know their responsibilities.

"We're putting together a tenant fact sheet," he says. "Something quick and short to help with landlord issues or code enforcement, letting tenants know what to do if they smell gas or if something's broken. We do get lots of questions from tenants and we want to make sure they have the right information quickly."

McNally also says he wants to encourage more home ownership, especially through programs like the Home Stretch down payment assistance program that provides financial assistance to eligible families seeking to achieve homeownership.

He says the city is partnering with Habi-

tat for Humanity to subdivide a single-family home into a two-home duplex that is owned by two lower-income local families.

Another initiative he hopes to achieve is collaborating with the Economic Development and Planning Divisions to help revitalize underserved areas of the community, including the New Hampshire corridor and the area around the old Adventist Hospital.

"We want to think about how housing can be part of the revitalization process of the community," he says.

An example, McNally says, was the recent success at 112 Lee Ave., where the city, working with Mi Casa, helped the tenants of the building secure \$600,000 in state grants to purchase the property.

All in all, McNally is excited to serve the residents of Takoma Park.

"I'm looking forward to getting to know members of the community," McNally says. working with the new city council. We're very excited about it."

Kelly Gibson of Ward 1 came out to speak highly of Stewart, who was first elected as Takoma Park's mayor in 2015. "She's immediately impressive but that's just the special thing about her and who she is," said Gibson. "I believe her style of leadership is what makes successful governent. We create space for differing opinions, we stay at the table, we don't back down, we don't make people feel bad for their different opinions and we never shut them down. Kate is the true illustration of that leadership and I believe Talisha will be as well, I'm very proud of that."

ment bodies. Women lead differ-

The other outgoing councilmembers also took the opportunity to give their thanks to their families, the community and their colleagues.

"I'm so grateful to everyone in Ward 3 for the opportunity to serve in this role," said Kostiuk, who also thanked her family for their support. "It's been a real honor to represent you and get to know you and be a small part of your life for the past five years. Please, keep in touch with me, I'm still your neighbor and I look forward to seeing you on the other side."

Councilmember Kovar also

|                               | City Council Ward 3 |            |          |         |            |         |  |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------|----------|---------|------------|---------|--|
|                               |                     | Round 1    |          | Round 2 |            |         |  |
| Candidate                     | Votes               | Percentage | Transfer | Votes   | Percentage | Result  |  |
| Mimi Diez                     | 485                 | 35%        | +137     | 622     | 46%        |         |  |
| Randy Gibson                  | 601                 | 44%        | +125     | 726     | 54%        | Elected |  |
| Alex Hadden                   | 285                 | 21%        | -261     |         |            |         |  |
| Write-in                      | 2                   |            | -1       |         | 100%       |         |  |
| Total Valid Votes             | 1,373               | 100%       |          | 1,348   | 100%       |         |  |
| Ballots Exhausted*            |                     |            |          | 24      |            |         |  |
| TOTAL                         | 1,373               | 100%       |          | 1,373   | 100%       |         |  |
| Winning threshold<br>by round | 687                 |            |          | 675     |            |         |  |

\* A candidate must receive a majority of valid votes to be elected. If no candidate reaches a majority of first choice votes, an instant runoff is triggered. The ballots marked first choice for candidate(s) with the fewest first choice votes are reviewed to see if they selected a second choice. If so, those ballots are redistributed to their second choice candidate. If their second choice is defeated or if they did not select a second choice, those ballots are declared "exhausted."

| City Council Ward 5        |       |            |       |     |         |            |         |
|----------------------------|-------|------------|-------|-----|---------|------------|---------|
|                            |       | Round 1    |       |     | Round 2 |            |         |
| Candidate                  | Votes | Percentage | Trans | fer | Votes   | Percentage | Result  |
| A. J. Campbell             | 159   | 33%        | +28   | 3   | 187     | 41%        |         |
| Cara Honzak                | 236   | 48%        | +29   | )   | 265     | 59%        | Elected |
| Yared Tebabu               | 92    | 19%        | -92   | 2   | 0       | 0%         |         |
| Write-in                   |       |            | +1    |     | 1       | 0%         |         |
| Total Valid Votes          | 487   | 100%       |       |     | 453     | 100%       |         |
| Ballots Exhausted          |       |            |       |     | 34      |            |         |
| TOTAL                      | 487   |            |       |     | 487     |            |         |
| Winning threshold by round | 244   |            |       |     | 227     |            |         |

| City Council Ward 6        |       |            |          |         |            |         |
|----------------------------|-------|------------|----------|---------|------------|---------|
|                            |       | Round 1    |          | Round 2 |            |         |
| Candidate                  | Votes | Percentage | Transfer | Votes   | Percentage | Result  |
| Ambroise Agosse            | 100   | 15%        | -100     | 0       | 0%         |         |
| Raju Charles               | 57    | 9%         | -57      | 0       | 0%         |         |
| Mike Moore                 | 222   | 34%        | +72      | 294     | 48%        |         |
| Jason Small                | 268   | 41%        | +45      | 313     | 52%        | Elected |
| Write-In                   | 5     | 1%         | -5       | 0       | 0%         |         |
| Total Valid Votes          | 652   | 100%       |          | 607     | 100%       |         |
| Ballots Exhausted          |       |            |          | 45      |            |         |
| TOTAL                      | 652   |            |          | 652     |            |         |
| Winning threshold by round | 327   |            |          | 304     |            |         |

## Winter Weather Response Plan

As we prepare for this winter's snow and duce chances of injury for collection staff. The City's Vegetation Maintenance Division provides sidewalk clearing at City parks and playgrounds. That work takes place during daylight hours. Building Maintenance staff clear sidewalks and walkways around City facilities as needed. City staff track potential storms and prepare to respond as soon as the snow starts to fall. Plowing operations begin once there is 1 inch of snow on the roadway. The goal of the response plan is to have two (2) travelable lanes on each primary street within 12 hours if the snowfall is six (6) inches or less. If the snowfall is six (6) inches or more, the goal is to have one (1) travelable lane within the 12-hour response. Snow removal equipment remains in service around the clock until all the roads are cleared. Often, when severe weather is on the way, the City begins anti-icing procedures on the Primary Streets. If the storm produces only sleet and ice, the City treats roadways with a sand and

thanked the council, voters, and residents of Ward 1. "Everyone was so welcoming and willing to give me the honor and privilege of representing them, which was incredibly touching," he said. "We had a relationship that went on for seven years. I also want to thank my colleagues and staff, who were really good at helping me, but also talking me out of bad ideas."

Stewart also took time to thank the council: "To my colleagues, you all have been so incredibly wonderful. Peter I know of few people who are so unwavering in how they fight for their constituents and their friends and you have been a model of that. Cindy your commitment to climate change and always asking the questions that need to be asked and index cards are things I will miss. Kacy, your patience, smarts and deep kindness are so unique and I'm truly going to miss working with you so closely. Councilmember Seamens, you have been a rock over the years and your search for justice and fairness in our community is something we've all benefited from. Talisha, your advice, collaboration and thoughtfulness

has been something I've so much leaned on over the years."

Stewart ended her farewell to the council by quoting one of her favorite authors Jacqueline Woodson, "The revolution is like a merry-go-round, history always being made somewhere. And maybe for a short time, we're a part of that history. And then the ride stops and our turn is over."

"So, Mayor-elect Searcy, it's your turn to get on this merry-goround. And with that, I adjourn this city council," she said to applause.

Searcy was then sworn-in by Karen A. Bushell, Clerk of the Montgomery County Circuit Court. The new mayor then sworein the next Takoma Park City Council.

She then gave her first words as the new mayor of Takoma Park. "First I want to thank the residents of Takoma Park. I deliberated a lot before putting my foot into the fire, I should say. I look forward to serving our entire city. I believe very strongly that we are all called together for a reason and it's to lead this great city into its next phase of existence."

| City Council Ward 1  |       |            |         |  |  |  |
|----------------------|-------|------------|---------|--|--|--|
| Candidate            | Votes | Percentage | Result  |  |  |  |
| Fulcher              | 792   | 58%        | Elected |  |  |  |
| Sherman              | 274   | 20%        |         |  |  |  |
| Wallace              | 288   | 21%        |         |  |  |  |
| Write-in             | 10    | 1%         |         |  |  |  |
| Total Valid Votes    | 1,364 | 100%       |         |  |  |  |
| Winning<br>threshold | 683   |            |         |  |  |  |

| City Council Ward 2             |      |      |         |  |  |
|---------------------------------|------|------|---------|--|--|
| Candidate Votes Percentage Resu |      |      |         |  |  |
| Dyballa                         | 1010 | 94%  | Elected |  |  |
| Write-In                        | 62   | 6%   |         |  |  |
| Total Valid Votes               | 1072 | 100% |         |  |  |
| Winning<br>threshold            | 537  |      |         |  |  |

| City Council Ward 4  |            |        |         |  |  |  |
|----------------------|------------|--------|---------|--|--|--|
| Candidate            | Percentage | Result |         |  |  |  |
| Seamens              | 559        | 97%    | Elected |  |  |  |
| Write-In             | 17         | 3%     |         |  |  |  |
| Total Valid Votes    | 576        | 100%   |         |  |  |  |
| Winning<br>threshold | 289        |        |         |  |  |  |
|                      |            |        |         |  |  |  |

salt mix.

The City provides snow plowing and treatment on City roadways except for the following roadways which come under the

driveways and sidewalks in front of residential or commercial property is the responsibility of the resident or property owner/ manager and is required, for safety reasons by City law. When clearing snow from your sidewalk or driveway. Please pile it in an adjacent yard, not in the street. Piles of snow shoveled out into the street can cause problems for passing vehicles. Stay Connected! Announcements about a declared snow emergency and closures will be posted on Takoma Alert, local media, and the City's website, Facebook, and Twitter accounts. The City can provide special services to residents who have health issues that require them to be able to use their street to access health care. Residents need to contact the Public Works Department to notify the City of those needs. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at 301-891-7633 between 8:30 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday.

ice storms, the Public Works Department would like to provide the following information about the City winter weather response plan.

For the purposes of snow and ice control, the roughly 34 miles of the roadway under City control are divided into 5 zones. Each zone has an assigned response vehicle. Within each Zone, primary streets are cleared first. Primary streets are those with more traffic and that connect to other streets, as well as those with steep slopes. Secondary streets are addressed next and include shorter streets, as well as courts and alleys.

The winter weather response team includes the Public Works Right of Way staff as the primary drivers of plow and treatment equipment. Sanitation drivers fill in for the second shift for major events. When significant snowfall occurs, City trash and recycling services may be canceled to enable 24-hour roadway clearing and to reresponsibilities of the State Highway Administration (301-948-2477) or Maryland National Capital Park and Planning (301-650-2600)

| Roadway            | Snow Response Agency |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Carroll Avenue     | State Highway        |
| Ethan Allen Avenu  | e State Highway      |
| Philadelphia Avenu | le State Highway     |
| Piney Branch Road  | l State Highway      |
| Sligo Creek Pkwy   | Park and Planning    |

However, as City vehicles often travel these roads to get to City streets, the City vehicles supplement the other agencies' snow removal activities.

Residents are encouraged to remove vehicles from the roadway, if possible when snowstorms have been predicted. The fewer cars on the street, the easier and safer it is for plows to clear the roadways.

Please remember that removal of snow in

# The ARTS

## Make Art or Take Art at the Free Little Art Gallery

You can share your artistic talents or find tiny art to take home at Takoma Park's first Free Little Art Gallery.

In a concept similar to little free libraries, the Free Little Art Gallery (FLAG for short) is a large box located next to the bus stop at 7667 Maple Avenue where anyone can donate small pieces of art or take art that they like. The box, which is stocked with art supplies, has two small galleries for displaying artwork, complete with easels and small figures admiring the art.

The interactive public art project is co-sponsored by the City of Takoma Park's Arts and Humanities Division and the Operation ARTS Foundation.

"We're very excited about our first Free Little Art Gallery," said Brendan Smith, the City's arts and humanities coordinator. "It provides motivation for people of all ages to create artwork and a public space where they can share it. The design of the little art gallery also celebrates our local Ethiopian community."

The little art gallery features paintings of traditional Ethiopian woven reed bowls, burlap sections to highlight Ethiopia's centuries-old connections to coffee, and a font inspired by the Amharic language.

Chyna Mae, Operation ARTS' president and creative



director, painted the little art gallery in Takoma Park, which is the fourth location in their Art MAG-NET (Mini Art Gallery Neighborhood Entertainment Tour) project.

"We hope by fostering the 'make art, take art' movement, we can help bring people closer together by providing an arena where their stories can be heard and where they can experience the stories of their neighbors," she said. "This project brings beauty, community creativity, collaboration, education, culture, and tourism to Takoma Park."

An opening party was held on Oct. 30 where kids and adults made artwork on tiny canvases to fill the little art gallery.

"It was wonderful connecting with the kids and families who came to the party, along with folks who were just walking by and stopped to make some art," Mae said. "We filled the little art gallery in a few hours and are looking forward to seeing more artwork displayed there."

The project was inspired by artist Stacy Milrany who created a little art gallery outside her home in Seattle two years ago to share art when many public spaces were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Little art galleries have sprouted up across the nation, including three in Washington, D.C. You can find more locations at findafreelittleartgallery.com.

Operation ARTS plans to build more little art galleries in other cities in Maryland. Go to operationarts.com for more info.





Takoma Park News 🗆 Page 5

# RECREATION

## TOTS

## ART

## The ABC's of Art

You're never too young to make art, so bring your creativity and your curiosity to the ABC"s of Art! Each week we'll read a fun new story and create a complimentary art project. Drawing, painting, collage and more. Instructor: CREATE Arts Center Takoma Park Community Center Azalea Room 7500 Maple Avenue 3-6 years Saturdays, 12:45-1:30 p.m. January 21-March 11 Resident: \$125 / Non-resident: \$145

## DANCE

## **Combo Tot Dance**

Fun and energizing class for your little ones. This is the introductory foundational class consisting of rhythmic movements, into basic tumbling and various styles of dance. Jam packed with games and toys your little ones vour little ones won't even realize they are learning to dance. Instructor: Dance Solutions Takoma Park Community Center Dance Studio 7500 Maple Avenue 3-6 years Sundays, 12:15-1 p.m. January 22-March 19 Resident: \$125 / Non-resident: \$145

## YOUTH

## CAMP

## Winter Break Camp - Ice Ages

Come explore the Ice Ages! This winter break is set to be a whole lot of fun. Campers will have the opportunity to add some excitement to their break with games, group activities and crafts. Must bring a lunch, snacks and labeled water bottle. Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue

5-12 years Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. December 27-December 30 Resident: \$150 / Non-resident: \$170 Before: 7-9 a.m. After: 4-6 p.m. Resident: \$40 / Non-resident: \$50

## ART

## **Creative Youth Development for Elementary Ages**

This program integrates artistic expression with youth development principles, supporting young people's stories, ideas and emotional struggles. For many people, this kind of learning is simply not available in their schools. This class is designed for youth who want to strengthen their personal, social and intellectual capacities to succeed in school,

## DANCE

Ballet This 45-minute class focuses on the basics of ballet but highlights advanced concepts including history, stage production, performance etiquette and choreography. Students will explore the history of ballet and practice combinations from various ballet choreographers. Instructor: Charonne Butler Takoma Park Community Center Dance Studio 7500 Maple Avenue 5-11 years Saturdays, 12:30-1:15 p.m. January 14-February 18 Resident: \$65 / Non-resident: \$75

## **Dance With Me**

A class that provides fun and excitement to everyone. This class allows for everyone to bring a friend or family member to learn fun dances and games in a safe, entertaining and supportive environment. Dance with me caters to youth with differing abilities. Instructor: Dance Solutions Takoma Park Community Center Dance Studio 7500 Maple Avenue 5-11 years Sundays, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. January 22-March 19 Resident: \$125 / Non-resident: \$145

## Hip-Hop Dance

This movement class focuses on the basics and culture of Hip Hop. Students will learn basic b-boy and b-girl dance technique, practice temporal awareness, spatial awareness and learn choreography. Instructor: Charonne Butler Takoma Park Community Center Dance Studio 7500 Maple Avenue 5-11 years Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. January 14-February 18 Resident: \$65 / Non-resident: \$75

## **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. Instructor: Master Robert Thompson Takoma Park Community Center Dance Studio 7500 Maple Avenue 4-17 years Saturdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m. January 7-March11 Resident: \$170 / Non-resident: \$190 Uniform Fee: \$70

## CAMP

## **Teens on the Move: Winter Edition**

Winter break is here but that doesn't mean we have to stay inside! Each day, students will go on a field trip to enjoy new experiences, including glassblowing and snow tubing. Must bring a bagged lunch and labeled water bottle. Takoma Park Community Center Teen Lounge 7500 Maple Avenue Grades: 6-12 4 Day Session Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. December 27-30 Resident: \$150 / Non-resident: \$170

## **DRAMA & THEATER**

## **Dungeons & Dragons**

They creep through the twilight, quiet as shadows muttering a language long forgotten, a language only spoken by ghosts. Use your imagination and storytelling ability in this classic fantasy role-playing game. Roll dice to cast spells and battle monsters. Creativity and cooperation help the group "survive." Instructor: Dave Burbank Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium 7500 Maple Avenue 8-18 years Fridays, 4-5 p.m. Session 1: January 6-January 27 Resident: \$60 / Non-resident: \$70

## **On-stage Acting: Scene Study**

Jump into a different world by learning how to transform into a character in a scene. Students will learn and apply acting concepts from Konstantin Stanislavski and Uta Hagen in order to build a believable character in scene work. In each class, we will warm up together, play theatre games, experiment with acting techniques and rehearse scenes that are chosen from provided materials. Students will perform their scenes in the final class, family are invited to attend. Acting concepts learned in class nurture imagination and go hand in hand with literary analysis and writing skills. Instructor: Gretchen Weigel Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium 7500 Maple Avenue 10-14 years Mondays, 4-5:30 p.m. January 23-March 27 Resident: \$225 / Non-resident: \$255 Materials Fee: \$10

## **DROP-IN**

## **Teen Lounge**

Where teens can do their homework, participate in fun activities, or kickback with friends after school in a safe environment. Registration on ActiveNet is required. Takoma Park Community Center

Virtual Grades: 6-12 6 Week Session Mondays, 6-7 p.m. January 9-February 27 Free

## **FITNESS**



## **Teen Fitness**

No matter your fitness level, this class is designed to work with you. Join us for a high energy workout. Your trainer will assist you in meeting your fitness goals. Bring a water bottle, towel, yoga mat and a positive attitude. Instructor: Grea Harris **Takoma Park Recreation Center** Gymnasium 7315 New Hampshire Avenue 11-17 years 6 Week Session Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. January 17-February 22 Resident: \$30 / Non-Resident: \$40

## **MULTIMEDIA**

Art of the Shot-Taking better photos using your cell phone Start taking the photos you want



to take and not the photos your camera thinks you want to take. In this course we will cover the top 8 parts of photography and students will receive tools and formulas that will allow you to start taking great and creative photos. Instructor: Vinny Mwano Virtual 14 & up Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. January 7-February 28

Resident: \$80 / Non-resident \$90

## ADULT

## ART

**Crafting Polymer Jewelry Workshop** Learn to design and create one of a kind earring, brooches & necklaces to match your wardrobe and personal style using the amazing versatility and color palettes offered by polymer clay. Instructor: Sharyn Neuwirth Takoma Park Community Center Art Studio 7500 Maple Avenue 18 & up Saturday, 12:30-5:30 p.m.

career and life. Instructor: CREATE Arts Center Takoma Park Community Center Azalea Room 7500 Maple Avenue 7-11 years Saturdays, 12:30-1:15 p.m. January 21-March 11 Resident: \$125 / Non-resident: \$145

**Ceramics - Valentine's Day Gift Making Workshop** 

Create brightly colored heart shaped ornaments, boxes and other keepsakes for family and friends over two Saturday mornings. A \$5 materials fee is due to the instructor on the first day of the workshop. Instructor: Caroline MacKinnon Takoma Park Community Center Art Room 7500 Maple Avenue 7 & up Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. January 21 & January 28 Resident: \$45 / Non-resident: \$55 Materials Fee: \$5

TEENS

## ART

## **Creative Youth Development for** Middle Schoolers

This program integrates artistic expression with youth development principles, supporting young people's stories, ideas and emotional struggles. For many people, this kind of learning is simply not available in their schools. This class is designed for youth ages 12-14 years old who want to strengthen their personal, social and intellectual capacities to succeed in school, career and life. Instructor: **CREATE Arts Center** Takoma Park Community Center Azalea Room 7500 Maple Avenue 12-15 years Saturdays, 10:15-11:15 a.m. January 21-March11 Resident: \$170 / Non-resident: \$190

Teen Lounge 7500 Maple Avenue Grades: 6-12 Monday-Friday, 3-6 p.m. Follows MCPS calendar Free, registration required

## **EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT**

**Teen Money Management** Money talks! Want to learn the language? This financial literacy program specifically focuses on basic finance skills that are relevant to the lives of teens. By learning the concepts listed below and putting them into practice, participants will be much better prepared when they begin building their own credit history and managing their own money. Topics include long-term saving goals, credit cards, credit reports, opening a bank account, student loans, and budgeting. Once registered, Zoom Link is included on Receipt. Instructor: Tyronda Boone of Zoey & Zander

February 11 Resident: \$140 / Non-resident: \$160

#### Drawing

The practice of drawing can be both relaxing and enriching. Participants in this class will draw with black and white and color media, such as charcoal, oil and chalk, pastels, pen and ink and colored pencils. Students will be supported by weekly lessons with demos involving proportion and perspective, on-going feedback and critique. Creative cropping, expressive mark making, exploration into limited value or color key and other techniques will be discussed. Personal creativity will be encouraged. Come join the fun and comradery of drawing together and develop a practice that will enhance your life. Beginning to advanced students welcome. Paper and drawing materials will be available for the \$20 materials fee due on the first day of class. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman

## **RECREATION** Page 7

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# RECREATION

## RECREATION

From page 6

Takoma Park Community Center Art Studio 7500 Maple Avenue 18 & up Thursdays, 6:30-9 p.m. January 12-February 16 Resident: \$230 / Non-resident: \$260 Materials Fee: \$20

### **Encaustic Collage & Printmaking Workshop**

Intro to Encaustic offers instruction in the many applications of encaustic in art: as a painting medium, a collage adhesive, and as a pigment for encausting monoprinting with a Roland Hotbox. Students will explore layering opaque and translucent papers with wax as abase for over-painting with oil and encaustic, the creation of altered papers with ink and watercolor, which combine with wax and encaustic paint, resulting in beautiful painterly prints, and the many ways you can enhance your current practice with the addition of encaustic paint. Various absorbent surfaces such as board, canvas, printmaking and watercolor will be on hand to explore. All materials will be provided for the \$70 materials fee, including all substrates, medium, brushes and paint. A letter of optional materials to bring will be sent out after you register. Takoma Park Community Center Art Studio 7500 Maple Avenue 18 & up Saturday & Sunday, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

February 25 & February 26 Resident: \$280 / Non-resident: \$310 Materials Fee: \$70

## **Painting Exploration**

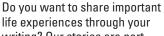
In this beginner class, participants are encouraged to try different materials and methods, as well as explore some of the basic elements of design in their work. Participants will try still life, landscape as well as painting from their imaginations. We will examine paintings by other artists and give helpful feedback to one another in a comfortable setting. Grab a brush and come by the studio to explore painting! A non refundable \$35 materials fee is due to the instructor on the 1st day of class. Instructor: Caroline MacKinnon Takoma Park Community Center Art Studio 7500 Maple Avenue

7500 Maple Avenue 18 & up

Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. January 6-February 10 Resident: \$150 / Non-resident: \$170 Materials Fee: \$35

## **EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT**

Writing Life Stories



writing? Our stories are part of what makes us human. Whether you are a lifelong writer or a beginner, this class is for you. I will help you to jump-start your memories, organize your ideas and edit your work. We use the book Writing the Memoir, by Judith Barrington. Bring a notebook to each class and be ready to have fun! Instructor: Barbara Rosenblatt Virtual 18 & up

Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. January 11-March 29 Resident: \$105 / Non-resident: \$125

## FITNESS

**Boot Camp** A total body program that includes a circuit of drills such as jumping jacks, running, pushups, squats, crunches and weight training. A challenging workout within a quick hour. Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium

7315 New Hampshire Avenue 16 & up



Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. January 10-February 23 Resident: \$105 / Non-Resident: \$125

## Energy Circles Qi Gong

Energizing simple movements designated to improve health, mobility, flexibility, general happiness and peace of mind. You will develop a daily routine selecting from a variety of exercises that are easy to learn. You will find immediate benefits; invigorating energy systems, opening up joints and relaxing our bodies, minds and spirits. No experience needed to connect with our vital life energies. Instructors: Patrick Smith & Joann Malone Virtual

18 & up Tuesdays, 7:30-8 p.m. January 24-March 14 Resident: \$30 / Non-resident: \$40

## Foundation Fitness II

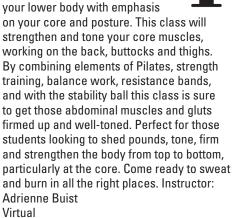
This is a group exercise program that is appropriate for all age

and skill levels, but especially for those who are new to fitness training. FFTII is designed to improve health and skill-related fitness components with focus on muscular strength and endurance; flexibility, agility, balance, coordination, speed variance and power. The exercises and movements can be modified to challenge all levels of fitness. Additionally, participants should be able to perform floor exercises using a mat and various resistance tools. Instructor: Michael Williams Virtual 18 & up Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. January 7-March 25 Resident: \$6 / Non-resident: \$16

## Guts & Buts

The special focus of this class is your lower body with emphasis



16 & up Wednesdays, 6-6:45 p.m. Resident: \$30 / Non-resident: \$40

## lyengar Yoga for Beginners

This method opens up the practice of yoga for everyone.



The use of props and a step by step approach teaches alignment and brings strength and flexibility. The basic postures are introduced and awareness is created in the whole body. As awareness of every part of the body is felt, energy is generated and the breath is engaged. The aim is to bring into alignment the different parts of the body to associate the breath and mind and release tension and stress. Instructor: Tehseen Chettri **You can attend the class in-person or via Zoom.com**.

Takoma Park Community Center

**RECREATION** Dage 11

## **Employee Spotlight: Verónica Rivera-Negrón, Library Manager for Children & Young Adult Services**

## Provide a little background information about yourself.

My hometown is Naranjito, Puerto Rico. My favorite thing about growing up there was gazing at the ocean from my aunt's house! My background is in communications, theater, and education. What I do now is artsbased informal education, which means that I use the arts to create learning opportunities outside of school (aka where it *must* be fun!). Outside of work, I enjoy writing, cooking, and taking walks in nature.

## How long have you been working with youth and young



the American Library Association to buy more books in Spanish for all ages and to create a storytelling program called *El Cuento*.

## What do you hope youth and young adults take away from interacting with the Takoma Park Maryland Library?

I hope children and teens feel a sense of belonging to the library. That they make the library a space that is as fun or as serious as they'd like it to be. Where they feel respected and also practice respecting others. And where they see themselves represented, while also learning about experiences that are not their own.



#### adults? And what drove you to this line of work?

I've been working with youth for over 10 years now. One of my first jobs was as a theater instructor at a summer camp! (Which is why I love Recreation!) I'm a very optimistic kind of person, and I wanted to dedicate my career to something positive. I believe that young people have the right to a safe and joyful life growing up so they become great adults. My hope is that through my work I'm contributing to a better future for all.

## Why do you think it is important that youth have a relationship with books and the library?

I think it's important for youth to have a relationship with the library because reading is one of the most useful skills you can acquire. For example, reading develops your imagination and critical thinking skills, which will help you with problem solving. Also, if you know how to read, you can learn anything with the help of a book. Reading is a gift that keeps on giving!

Verónica Rivera-Negrón

## What types of programs have you brought to Takoma Park since joining the City earlier this year?

A lot of my work this year has been supporting the great programs my co-workers were already doing, like Neighborhood Circle Time and Sketch Club. In terms of initiatives I've started since joining in January 2022, I'm really proud of creating new opportunities for teens and developing new services in Spanish. I've been getting teens to volunteer at author and illustrator events. They take on leadership roles on stage and backstage to make sure the event runs smoothly. I also got a grant from

## How can we continue to promote literacy and a passion for reading throughout the Takoma Park community?

What a great question! There are so many things we can do to promote literacy and a passion for reading but I'll highlight three that guide my work:

Nurture a love for stories, not just books. Stories can also be found in audiobooks, theater, music, movies, TV shows, and even video games. When you love stories, you start seeking them in all their forms. And you may even feel compelled to create your own!

Encourage yourself, and those around you, to read (listen or watch) stories you like for fun, as well as some that challenge you so you can grow.

Bring the library outside its four walls. The community comes to our building and we also take the library to them. For example, you can often find the Children & Young Adult Services Team at schools, public parks, and community events all over Takoma Park!





## Library and Computer Center hours are:

Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Friday-Sunday 12 – 6 p.m.

## **Holiday Closings:**

- December 24th, 25th, and 26th
- January 1st and 2nd

## **Important Information**

- **Our new address is** 7505 New Hampshire Avenue. There is plenty of parking as well as public transportation.
- To protect our most vulnerable patrons and staff, the Library strongly

## **EVENTS** and **Programs**

Neighborhood Circle Time has moved to Tuesdays! Join Ms. Kati and/or Ms. Verónica every Tuesday at 10:30 am for Circle Time indoors in our new temporary library. We sing songs, have fun with fingerplays and rhymes, and do many dancing and movement exercises. We read a book in the middle of the program. We have partnered with Carpe Diem Arts to bring Jumpstart to the Library once a month! This month they will join us on December 6th. If your child has a birthday coming up, please email Ms. Kati at kathrynn@takomaparkmd.gov with the age and day, and we will celebrate!

**Canta Juego:** Spanish Circle time every Thursday at 10:30 am 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 put in this Meeting ID: 959-5178-5847 and Meeting Password: 793725. Sponsored by Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

**Crafts in the Library!** Holiday cards and paper crafts, Sunday, Dec. 11, 1:00-3:00 All ages welcome.

Dennis Desmond will be presenting his new

Saturday, March 4, at 2:00 PM. In-Person at the Library's Temporary Location at 7505 New

book Eddie & the Vegetarian Vampire, on

Looking ahead Meet the Authors:



encourages everyone to continue to wear a mask while in the library, even though masks are optional in City facilities now.

 Books-to-Go is continuing, and Booksto-You (delivery for Takoma Park residents only) is starting back up. Email librarytakomapark@gmail.com to order. The book return bin, now located outside the Police Department on the lower level of the Community Center at 7500 Maple Avenue, is open at all times. Please note: if you are picking up a Books-to-Go order, please call the library's main number, 301-891-7259.

SKETCH CLUB is back! Join Dave on Thursdays at 4:00 PM for Sketch Club, either inperson at 7505 New Hampshire Ave, or online on Zoom. A mostly unstructured, self-guided 'class'. Kids who like to draw can hang out and work on whatever they feel like drawing. Tips and tricks can be shared as well as drawing prompts for those who 'don't know what to draw'. Kids who feel like sharing can let their work be displayed on the document camera, and observers can offer their thoughts and inspirations based on the work that is being done. This is not a class on how to draw, but a workshop on why to draw and how to not stop drawing and never worry about if something is 'good' or 'bad' so long as you are learning. In person at the new Takoma Park Maryland Library location, and on Zoom, https://us02web. zoom.us/j/7349136285

Winter Solstice - the library staff is busily putting together an event for the winter solstice. Save the evening of Wednesday, December 21st at 7pm for a special solstice celebration in our new space. In-person, refreshments will be served.

WinterQuest Reading program - look on our website or subscribe to the Takoma Insider for up-to-date information on our winter reading program, which will be starting December 16th.

## Día de los niños / Día de los libros

## *The Silence That Binds Us* by Joanna Ho, Book Review

## by Kati Nolfi

Maybelline Chen is a writer and a seeker, not the go-getter that her mother would like her to be. When her beloved older brother Danny dies by suicide, the shock reverberates in their California community. And then comes the second

arrow when a powerful white parent accuses the Asian American community of creating a dangerously competitive environment, making it harder for their white children to succeed. The victim blaming compounds the pain for Maybelline and her friends and family.

I keep returning to the title: *The Silence That Binds Us.* To me, it has at least two meanings. Silence can both constrain us and bring us together. Reticence can be a survival mechanism, until it doesn't work anymore. Many families agree that it is easier to be silent about the hardest things.



But, as Maybelline says, "Every time we speak out, it is an act of love. Love is how we overcome fear." Silence may seem protective but it prolongs suffering and halts healing.

At over 400 pages, *The Silence That Binds Us* is deep and long. It would make fascinating fodder

for book club or classroom discussion. Joanna Ho has worked in education and it shows. She has previously written picture books; this is her YA debut and it seems like she has been waiting to take back the narrative herself. The book is powerful and heartfelt.

This is a love letter to the power of teachers and education. The length is not a problem, because the story is one you can marinate in and it is gripping enough that you will want to finish it, and you will want Maybelline and her family to triumph in the end.

## **Listen to This! Podcast review**

## by Kati Nolfi

**Empty Inside** with Jennette McCurdy might shock you if you grew up with the silly Nickelodeon tv shows of the early-tomid-aughts or are a caregiver whose child

watches them today on Netflix. McCurdy was a reluctant childturned adult actor from 2000-2015 who has transitioned to writing with her publication of the searing and perceptive memoir, "I'm Glad My Mom Died." Depending on your familiarity with her, each episode of the podcast, recorded in 2020 and 2021, delves into gnarly and fascinating topics, such as toxic mothers,



aging, eating disorders, alcoholism, and child fame. If you ever thought there was something not quite right with child stardom, in general and the Nickelodeon machine, in particular, yes you were correct.

But what a redemption story for Jennette McCurdy. Her podcast interviews are generous and intimate and mostly with folks you probably haven't heard of. She is both unassuming and erudite and despite her upbringing never pulls focus. **Empty Inside** feels like it was recorded in a basement in the best way.

Available wherever you get your podcasts.

Kelly Yang The #1 New York Times Bestselling Author, Kelly Yang, will join us to present her upcoming book *Finally Seen!* Please note that masking will be required at this event. Tuesday, February 28, at 6:00 PM In-Person in the Community Center Auditorium.



KELLY YANG

Join Takoma Park Maryland Library for its second Día celebration. There will be stories, music, and other surprises! Saturday, April 29, from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. In-

Person, outdoors at Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Ave) Rain Plan: Indoors at the Library's Temporary Location.



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Hampshire Avenue.

## **Director's column** The Myth of Neutrality in Libraries

#### by Jessica Jones

Many of us grew up hearing that "libraries are neutral organizations," and it is a label that many librarians and libraries still embrace; in fact, it is a point of pride for many libraries. I have thought about this issue of neutrality in libraries for a long time, in many different library settings - academic, public, red states, blue states. The more data I process and internalize, the more I believe that neutrality in libraries is a myth. I don't believe that any library can be truly neutral. Let me explain.

## How do we define neutrality?

Neutrality is often thought of as a passive trait, but it shouldn't be conflated with complacence. The Oxford dictionaries give two primary meanings to the word "neutrality." 1) "The state of not supporting or helping either side in a conflict, disagreement, etc." and 2) the "absence of decided views, expression, or strong feeling." I would argue that as long as we have mission statements, we are already defying both of these definitions by declaring our values to the world and then working to live up to them.

By the way, we have a fantastic mission statement:

"The mission of the Takoma Park Maryland Library is to respond effectively to the literary,



educational, and informational needs of a diverse community by providing and promoting resources, collections, and referrals that match community interests, nurture a love of books and stories, and represent a broad range of views within an inviting and safe environment."

## Whom does neutrality serve?

By both definitions, neutrality benefits the people and institutions that already have the resources and authority to anticipate that their expectations will be honored. In libraries, this means that neutrality serves socially and politically dominant demographics. This is how libraries have historically participated in racist, classist, sexist, anti-Semitic (Dewey ... ugh), homophobic, and transphobic systems. As the late Elie Wiesel so eloquently put it, "We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."

## How is the "neutral" label harmful to libraries and their patrons?

Identifying with traits that we assign inherent goodness (in this case, neutrality) makes it difficult for libraries to receive criticism. Embracing a historical notion of neutrality also absolves us of acknowledging our participation in social injustices. The bottom line is that, with the right resources, we can do more to uplift our communities if we are willing to define our role, fully flesh out the needs within the scope of that role, and address those needs with a priority on serving our communities more equitably. To do this, we have to be willing to look at which patrons are being supported and marginalized. We have to be willing to see all sides of an issue; we cannot opt out of participating in a society shaped by issues of injustice. To be obtuse to those injustices is a refusal to work towards correcting them.

## What word would be better to use than "neutral?"

To borrow from staff member Phil Shapiro: "The words we use represent our understanding of the world. As the years progress, our understanding of the world becomes clearer and so the words we use change." A first step can be to pivot our language from "neutral" to words like "nonpartisan." While libraries are not neutral, we can be nonpartisan. We can work towards the goals of our mission statements by making informed decisions about policies and programs within the context of the conditions that affect our communities. We can assert goals and values without identifying with specific political parties. We can be advocates without being lobbyists, and that aligns more with nonpartisanship than neutrality.

## What does it look like when libraries reject neutrality?

There are so many examples of this throughout modern American history. It was not a neutral act for the Birmingham Public Library in Alabama to desegregate in 1953, before Brown vs the Board of Education mandated it. When the Ferguson Public Library in Missouri opened in the middle of the protests surrounding the killing of Michael Brown in 2014, it was not a neutral act to provide a space for people to continue gathering in public while riot squads were deployed outside. All of the libraries fighting to keep inclusive books on their shelves today, despite the current wave of censorship, are rejecting neutral stances on collection development and accessibility.

## Where can I learn more about this issue?

Some of my favorite authors who write about critically reframing issues within librarianship today are Fobazi Ettarh, Kaetrena Davis Kendrick, and Jennifer Ferretti. Fobazi Ettarh, in particular, wrote an article in a delightfully named open source journal called In the Library with the Lead Pipe a few years ago that helped further shape how I look at libraries. The article is titled "Vocational Awe and Librarianship: The Lies We Tell Ourselves." While it centers on librarianship, the points it makes can easily be applied to most of the other "caring professions," like teaching, nursing, and counseling. Individuals can contribute to pushing back against systems of inequality, but individuals alone cannot overcome systems that act as barriers to equitable access.

Feel free to reach out via email for links to some of my favorite texts that I can't fit into a newsletter article, and thank you for reading this much on an admittedly niche topic about which I happen to care a lot. It's one of the reasons I love Takoma Park so much - a place with an active public dialogue about our place in the world and the ways we can work to both see it more clearly and make it better.

## ¡Libros nuevos en español!

#### por Verónica Rivera-Negrón

Como bibliotecaria novata, ha sido muy interesante aprender cómo se desarrolla una colección de libros. He descubierto

que la fórmula para hacer este trabajo consiste en tres partes: aprovechar las listas de libros recomendados, imaginar lo que le gustaría a nuestros lectores y usar un poco nuestras propias preferencias a la hora de decidir qué adquirir. Este mes, te cuento de algunas de mis adquisiciones favoritas y el por qué decidí escogerlas.

Los cuentos alternativos de princesas son muy populares hov en día. Así que fue



## Vando fuiste

de colores (The Color Monster, en inglés) fue originalmente publicado en español? Su creadora, Anna Llenas, es autora, ilustradora y terapeuta de arte. El libro cuenta la historia de un monstruo que, con la

> ayuda de una niña, aprende a separar sus emociones para procesarlas. Según su casa editorial, Flamboyant, jeste libro lleva más de 20 ediciones y se ha publicado en más de 25 idiomas!

A veces escojo libros por lo fantástico de sus títulos, como es el caso del poemario Cuando fuiste nube, escrito por María José Ferrada. Sus hermosos poemas pueden ser disfrutados por grandes y chicos, mientras que las ilustraciones de Andrés López le añaden un aire de ensueño. Este poemario fue ganador del Premio Hispanoamericano de Poesía para Niños 2018, otorgado por la Fundación para las Letras Mexicanas y el Fondo de Cultura Económica. La colección de libros de misterio para adultos es muy popular en nuestra biblioteca, jasí que no pude resistir la idea de ofrecerle a los lectores jóvenes la oportunidad de practicar sus habilidades de detective con un libro-juego! Enigmas: Desafía tu mente con 25 historias de misterio de Victor Escandell y Ana Gallo es un libro interactivo en el que puedes leer cuentos, buscar pistas y, por supuesto, ¡re-

solver misterios!

Finalmente, si bien he estado enfocada en adquirir libros en español, debo admitir que me fascinan los libros de imágenes sin palabras. En Clic de Roger Icaza, vemos los mundos a los que escapan un papá y su hija antes de apagar la luz para irse a dormir. Es muy mágico poder explorar un

libro únicamente a través de sus ilustraciones. Además, estos libros pueden ser dis-



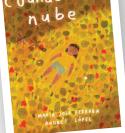
frutados por todos, sin importar sus habilidades de lectura o el idioma que hablen.

Estos son solo algunos de los más de 700 libros y otros materiales en español que estamos adquiriendo gracias a una beca de la Asociación de Bibliotecas de los Estados Unidos. ¡Todos estos y más ya están disponibles! También nos puedes sugerir otros libros o temas que desees

estén en nuestra biblioteca. ¡Feliz lectura!

con mucha gracia que adquirí Las princesas también se tiran pedos, escrito por Ilan Brenman e ilustrado por Ionit Zilberman. Papá le cuenta a Laura los secretos de las princesas. Por ejemplo, resulta que Cenicienta comió mucho chocolate durante el baile, jy se le escapó un pedo justo cuando sonaron las campanas de la medianoche! Es un libro gracioso sobre algo natural. Conseguí la versión en libro álbum, así como una más corta en libro de cartón.

¡Los lectores multilingües tenemos suerte de poder leer una variedad de textos en su idioma original! ¿Sabías que el famoso libro El monstruo







# **At Your SERVICE**



## THE FIREHOUSE REPORT



Congratulations to the newest graduates who attended our Babysitters Class, left. Next class will be offered in the Spring.

The Officers and members of the fire department and Auxiliary would like to wish everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.



### English:

Look for this icon next to newsletter articles that you can read online in other languages using the translation feature on the City of Takoma Park's website. After clicking on the link for the article, look in the upper right hand corner of the web page next to the navigation bar, and select the language you want using the drop-down box.

#### French:

Recherchez cette icône à côté des articles du bulletin que vous pouvez lire en ligne dans d'autres langues à l'aide de la fonction de traduction disponible sur le site Web de la ville de Takoma Park. Après avoir cliqué sur le lien de l'article, regardez dans le coin supérieur droit de la page Web à côté de la barre de navigation, puis sélectionnez la langue souhaitée à l'aide du menu déroulant.

### Spanish:

**Editor's note** 

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 እርስዎ ራስዎ ናቸው በሌሎች ቋንቋዎች በመስመር ላይ ማንበብ ይችላል ትርንሙን በመጠቀም በ ታኮማ ከተማ ውስጥ ያለውን ባህሪ የፓርክ ድር ጣቢያ. ጠቅ ካደረማን በኋላ ስጽሑቃ አ7ናኝ ላይ, ይመልከቱ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥፇ ላይ ታነባለች የአሰሳ አሞሌን ይምረጡና ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልቋይ ሳጥን.

## Are you ready? Holiday Giftsjoy and caution

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

As we approach the end of 2022 and embark on a new year, wouldn't you like some FREE gifts from the City of Takoma Park? DUH! of course!

It's not a trick it's true: 'gifts' that help you limit car theft, help you find/connect to loved ones who may have wandered off, provides tax free cash as-

sistance if you have very limited income.

Don't wait, go for it:

## **Etch and Catch:**

No, this isn't an art or drawing class! It's a FREE program to limit the theft of the catalytic converter in your car. What's that? It's a metal



piece that looks like a small muffler and fits into the exhaust system. It's in all cars since 1980.

Why is this metal being stolen? It's valuable because it's made of 3 precious metals--Platinum, Palladium and Rhodium. Value (8/18/22): Platinum --\$928.59 per oz; palladium \$2,162 per oz; Rhodium \$14,900 per oz. And, it takes only about 3 minutes to saw it out or unbolt!

So, how does the City help limit/prevent this theft? In collaboration with RS Automotive, the license plate number is etched on the converter. Also available, for a fee, is raising the vehicle on a rack and -free, painting the converter with high heat bright white paint. Afterwards, you get a bright yellow sticker to put on the driver's side rear window, bottom. Contact RS Automotive: 7224 Carroll Ave; # 301-270-4418.

See a video of how the theft is done , why it's on the increase and more information: https:// takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/services-



converter-etching-program/

Q: Cathy Plevy: cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov /

In case of a wandering or lost child (or elder with special needs) this 4 folded card has spaces to write personal and medical information, physical information, fingerprints (comes with ink), photo, and dental information. Don't wait, be prepared. Get card at the Takoma Park Police Dept.; contact Lt Cynthia Williams for help, examples of how this helped and more: CynthiaW@takomaparkmd.gov

### **Direct Cash Assistance Program**

In large letters, the front page of the November Takoma Park News announced that the City has started the Direct Cast Assistance Program. If your income is than \$50,000, live in Takoma Park boundaries, you are eligible for \$1,000 cash. That's it; immigration status NOT asked.

Check https://bit.ly/TakomaCash, call 1-885-582-3973> press 9. or go to https://documents. takomaparkmd.gov/news/newsletter/2022/TakomaPark\_Newsletter\_November\_Edition.pdf

### **Need help?**

Takoma Park Library: now at 7505 New Hampshire Ave (shopping area -in Salvation Army store), about 1.5 miles from intersection with 410/ethan allen. 301-891-7259.

Don't wait-funds only available until gone, no replacement.

And now, a warning-as you give to others, donate to charities, be careful. Holidays are especially attractive for charity scammers. Yes, your caring can be used by groups that pretend to be a charity, and some that are registered as a nonprofit, but actually give very little of the money to the programs they promote. So, be prepared and be careful. Warning signs: pressure to give right away; request for money by cash , gift card, or wire transfer. Check with: Charity Watch https:// www.charitywatch.org/, Better Business Bureau https://give.org/

ARE YOU READY?

Wishing you Happy and Healthy Holidays!

and-programs/catalytic-

OR: takomaparkmd.gov and

search, etch and catch

301-891-7142

## **ChildPrint ID Kit**

Did you know that Takoma Park Police offer FREE vacant house checks to its residents while they VALANI are away? For more info and an application, visit HOUSE www.takomaparkmd.gov and click on Services & Programs **CHECKS** 



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.
- 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.

## Free Vacant House Checks for Residents of Takoma Park

Going out of town during the holidays and need a vacant house check? We will check on your Takoma Park home free of charge. Learn more about the Vacant House Check Program and apply at https:// takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/servicesand-programs/vacant-house-check-program/. Also, please refrain from advertising your travel plans on social media. Enjoy, and be safe!

Page 10 🗖 Takoma Park News



## **Routine Clearance Pruning for Street Trees**

Don't be surprised this winter if you approach the sidewalk to find a street tree with a few less branches than it had before. The Urban Forest Manager and the Public Works Department will be surveying trees on the street in public space and conducting routine pruning in the coming months. Key objectives for this routine maintenance include providing adequate clearance over sidewalks, vehicle travel lanes, and vehicle parking areas. We also prune to ensure adequate sight lines to intersections, traffic signs, and crosswalks. This work is important to ensure that we can have healthy trees on our streets while maintaining safe passage for vehicles and pedestrians.

Pruning is conducted or overseen by the Urban Forest Manager and is kept to a high standard for tree health and structure. The goal is to establish eight feet of clearance over sidewalks and fourteen feet of clearance over vehicle travel lanes. Some shrubs growing in public space that cannot realistically be pruned such that they are compatible with the sidewalk and street may be removed. The same goes for trees that may have been planted or volunteered them-



selves in the wrong location, such as too close to a utility pole, intersection, or sign. It is important to deal with such problems when the shrub or tree is young to avoid it becoming an increasing nuisance and a more challenging job.

Property owners should also be aware that it is their responsibility to ensure that trees or shrubs growing from their properties are kept pruned to provide adequate clearance. Notices will be left on door handles in cases where private property trees are found to be too low or blocking the sidewalk. We love trees, just not when their branches make it difficult for our neighbors to navigate the sidewalks. With a bit of selective pruning trees, pedestrians, and vehicles can all live together happily.

## RECREATION

From page 7

Dance Studio 7500 Maple Avenue 18 & up Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m. January 25-March 29 Resident: \$150 / Non-resident: \$170 Drop in: \$15

### Ker De Zuri DanXercise Class (Afrobeat/ Afro-Ndombolo Dance Class)

Zuri Sana'a DanXercise's mission is to bring you joy and memories through the art of dance. Zuris 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 Dance Studio 7500 Maple Avenue 16 & up Thursdays, 7-8 p.m. January 12-March 30 Resident: \$80 / Non-resident: \$90

#### 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: Dance Solutions

Takoma Park Community Center

Takoma Park Community Center Lilac Room 7500 Maple Avenue 55 & up **4** Session Dates Mondays, 10-11 a.m. February 13, February 27, March 13 & March 27 \$6

## DANCE

**Line Dance** 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. Instructor: Barbara Brown Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium 7315 New Hampshire Avenue 55 & up Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. January 10-March 14 Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. January 11-March 15 \$6

#### Zumba Gold

Active older adults who are looking for a modified Zumba class

original moves you love at a lower intensity. The design of the class introduces easy-tofollow Zumba choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination. Instructor: Yesika Flores

Takoma Park Recreation Center

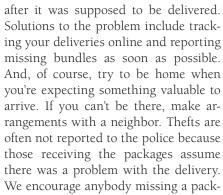
## **Holiday Package Tips**

HOLIDAY

PACKAGE

TIPS

Typically, there's a jump in packages stolen from homes during the holidays. More and more people prefer to shop online and have packages delivered. This is an easy time for thieves because sometimes the person expecting a package doesn't realize their package has been stolen until sometimes weeks



age after it has been verified through the shipping company to contact the police and make a report.

If you are sending something to someone, please let those people know they need to be expecting it. Also, check for a scheduled package at the usual time your postal carrier delivers to your home. If using a

shipping company or service, ask about other measures they offer to ensure delivery. The best way to do it is to require a signature, especially if you are sending a high-value item. Some companies will allow a neighbor to be designated to accept packages if the delivery comes when you are away from home. Be neighborly and ask a neighbor if they will accept a package for you, or ask them to keep an eye out if you know you have a package being delivered.

## **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 Virtual

55 & up Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. \*New time\* January 10-March 14 \$6

### Foundational Fitness 55+



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** Virtual 55 & up

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10-11 a.m. January 10-March 16 \$6

### Qigong

Qigong is meditation via movement, standing and/or seated, that can benefit participants by lowering stress and anxiety, increasing focus and improving balance and flexibility. It combines breathing, gentle movement and meditation to improve good mental, physical and spiritual health. Instructor: Anne Harrison Takoma Park Recreation Center **Back Activity Room** 7315 New Hampshire Avenue 55 & up Thursdays, 10-11 a.m. January 12-March 16 \$6

#### **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 Recreation Center **Back Activity Room** 7315 New Hampshire Avenue 55 & up Tuesdays, 12-1 p.m. January 10-March 14 \$6

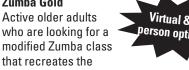
#### Yoga for 55 plus

This yoga class is about the gentle flow of yoga poses modified to an individual's 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 Gymnasium 7315 New Hampshire Avenue 55 & up Tuesdays, 12-1 p.m. January 10-March 14 \$6

## **Yoga for Healthy Aging**

This class helps build strength, endurance, flexibility and range-of-motion and improve posture and balance, and aids 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 mat, a yoga belt (or equivalent, e.g., a necktie), a tennis ball, preferably a yoga





Dance Studio 7500 Maple Avenue 16 & up Saturdavs, 10:15-11:15 a.m. January 7-March 25 Resident: \$100 / Non-Resident: \$110 Drop-In: \$15

55+

## ART

#### Art & Crafts with Alice

Brighten the Winter days and get creative. The class meets twice a month to learn a new skill and create different projects. We will cover a variety of quick art and craft projects. Have fun and learn a new skill in each class such as decorating vases, painting ceramic tiles, creating table decorations and a holiday project. Enjoy the supportive and relaxed atmosphere. Instructor: Alice Sims

7315 New Hampshire Avenue Gymnasium 55 & up Wednesdays, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. January 11-March 15 Fridays, 10-11 a.m. (virtual & in person options) January 13-March 17 \$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. January 24, February 28 & March 28 Free

## **Rhythmic Drumming**

Cardio Fitness Drumming lets the rhythmic beat move you through tapping and drumstick clapping while standing, and/or sitting to exercise your mind and body. No drumming experience required. Instructor: **Dance Solutions** Takoma Park Recreation Center **Back Activity Room** 7315 New Hampshire Avenue 55 & up Tuesdays, 1:15-2:15 p.m. January 10-March 14 \$6

block and blanket. Instructor: Carol Mermey Takoma Park Recreation Center **Back Activity Room** 7315 New Hampshire Avenue 55 & up Fridays, 12-1 p.m. January 13-March 17 \$6

## **SPORTS**

### **Pickleball Open Play**

Join other new players for pickleball practice and play in the Gymnasium. No intermediate or advanced players please. Limited paddles are available for use. Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium 7315 New Hampshire Avenue 55 & up Thursdays, 12-2 p.m. January 12-March 16 Free with registration

# **Community ACTIVITIES**

## **Takoma Park Farmers Market**

Every Sunday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. 6931 Laurel Ave.

Come out every Sunday behind the shops on Laurel Ave. for a mix of 25 vendors with seasonal produce, pasture raised meat and eggs, artisan cheese, grains, bread, baked goods, and more. Find breakfast and lunch at the market including empanadas, egg sandwiches, burgers, pastries and more.

## 24th Annual Takoma Park Alternative Gift Fair

Saturday, December 3, Noon – 4 p.m. Takoma Park Presbyterian Church

With an Alternative Gift, holiday "shopping" means donating to nonprofits in the name of your loved ones. Alternative gifts are gifts of donation that fill a direct and tangible need, such as books for children in Takoma Park or providing two months of school supplies to a child in Central America. Meet with representatives from 14 charities and learn about their missions and the gifts they are offering. There is fun for everyone including live music, free seated massage, a supervised kids' corner with crafts and a raffle with great prizes.

## Pajamarama Holiday Market

Sunday, December 4, 8 – 11 a.m. Takoma Park Community Center

Pajama-wearing shoppers will get early morning discounts at participating local businesses. Find unique holiday gifts including home decor, kitchen items, books, toys, puzzles, games, bikes, plants, pottery, lamps, clothing, shoes, jewelry, beads, pet supplies, baked goods, groceries, personal care items and much more.

## Takoma Park Gift(ing) Market

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

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

## **Takoma Park Community Band Holiday Concert** Saturday, December 10, 4 – 5 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

The Takoma Park Community Band will be performing a program of holiday music. Selections include the iconic Sleigh Ride, A Jammin' Caribbean Christmas, Chanukah Is Here, and many others, plus an audience sing along.

## 12th Annual Takoma Park Book Fair

Saturday, December 17, 1 – 4 p.m. Takoma Park Busboys & Poets, 235 Carroll Street NW

Takoma authors sell their books. If you live in Takoma Park (or nearby in DC, MD, or VA)—and you've published in 2019-2022—you're eligible to participate in the 12th Annual Takoma Park Book Fair.

## Takoma Cocoa Crawl

Saturday, December 17, 1 – 4 p.m.

Cocoa will be flowing in Takoma at Takoma restaurants and cafes. Visitors may make one stop or many and enjoy traditional cocoa, Mexican hot chocolate, and vegan cocoa—all with or without alcohol. The Takoma Cocoa Crawl is a great time for holiday shopping. This year they will forgo the reusable Takoma mugs for health reasons and the businesses will provide single use mugs or to-go cups for your safety and enjoyment. mainstreettakoma.org/ featured-events/takoma-cocoa-crawl

## **Old Town Holiday Brass**

Sunday, December 18, Noon – 1:30 p.m. Gazebo on Carroll Ave.

A brass and reed ensemble featuring young musicians from House of Musical Traditions and Lowell School playing holiday classics outdoors under the Gazebo on Carroll Ave. Directed by local music instructor, Brian Weber.

## **Historic Takoma Reading Room**

Sundays (first and third) 7328 Carroll Ave.

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

Notice of Proposed Administrative Regulation for the Implementation and Enforcement of Takoma Park Code, Sections 6.16.050 (obligations of landlords) and 6.16.155 (window guards) – To regulate the installation of window guards in rental units, grant variances, and requirements for tenant notification and education

An Administrative Regulation is being proposed for the implementation and enforcement of Sections 6.16.050 (obligations of landlords) and 6.16.155 (window guards), to regulate the installation of window guards and provide specific guidance for single or double hung windows. The proposed regulation outlines the process and criteria for variances, and the requirements for tenant notification and education.

Pursuant to the requirements of the "Administrative Regulations Ordinance" (Authority: Chapter 2.12 "Administrative Regulations," of the Takoma Park Code), notice of the City's intention to adopt an administrative regulation must be publically noted, allowing residents the opportunity to comment on the proposal. The proposed regulation is available for review at https://bit.ly/3T6jCRu. To obtain further information about the proposed regulation, contact Devin McNally, Housing Manager, Housing and Community Development Department, 301-891-7222, devinm@ takomaparkmd.gov.

| ADMINISTRA      | TIVE REGULATION - No. 2023                                             | Page 1 of 7 |  |  |  |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--|--|--|
| Subject:        | Landlord Tenant Relations—Window Guards (Takoma Park Code, § 6,16,155) |             |  |  |  |
| Effective Date: | 1/15/2023                                                              |             |  |  |  |

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR WINDOW GUARDS, COMPLIANCE INFORMATION, VARIANCES, AND TENANT NOTIFICATION AND EDUCATION

Pursuant to the *City of Takona Park Code* § 6.16.155(B)(4), the following Administrative Regulations are hereby promulgated and are to be used in conjunction with Sections 6.16.050 (obligations of landlords) and 6.16.155 (window guards) of the *Takoma Park Code*.

#### Section 1. Definitions

For the purposes of this regulation, the following words and phrases shall have the following

- a. The term "City" refers to the City of Takoma Park
- b. The term "Department" refers to the City of Takoma Park, Maryland's Department of Housing and Community Development.
- c. The term "Director" refers to the Director of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland's Department of Housing and Community Development.

d. The term "Landlord" means any person who is the owner, the owner's agent, or a lessor or a sub lessor of the rental unit or rental facility and, in addition, shall mean any person authorized to exercise any aspect of the management of the rental facility, except those persons engaged solely in custodial and maintenance functions.

e. The phrase "Window Guard" means a physical barrier, or limiting device such as a window stop, attached to a window to prevent occupants from falling out of the window.



## **Winter Coat Drive**

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

The Takoma Park Police Department, in partnership with Adventist Church, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department, and others, is collecting clean, gently used warm coats in any size from infant to adult. The coats will be donated to people in need. This coat drive can make a difference in the lives of others by simply donating coats and jackets that are no longer needed. We will also accept clean, gently used gloves/mittens and scarves.

A large box is in the Takoma Park Police Department lobby, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland, and will remain in the lobby until Friday, December 30, at 4:00 pm. The Takoma Park Police Department will ensure they are given to those in need during and after the drive. Give warmth to those in need this winter!

Written comments on the proposed regulation should be submitted to the City Clerk at: clerk@takomaparkmd. gov.The deadline for receipt of public comments is Wednesday, December 30, 2022. as further specified in this regulation.

#### Section 2. Technical Specifications for Window Guards

a. Building Code and Permits. All construction, installation, or other work associated with this regulation must be done in accordance with all applicable building codes adopted by Montgomery County and all applicable permits must be obtained prior to commencing work. In additional, all construction, reconstruction, installation or other work associated with this regulation must be done in accordance with the City's Property Maintenance Code, *i.e.*, Title 6, Chapter 12 of the Takoma Park Code, which adopts and incorporates certain portions of Chapter 26 of the Montgomery County Code.

| Proposed: David Eubanks, Director    | Date: 10/25/2022 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Approved: Jamal T. Fox, City Manager | Date: 11/3/2022  |

## **Schedule for Review**

Publication of Proposed Regulation – December 1, 2022

Publication of Regulation and Notice of Final Action – January 2023 City Newsletter

Effective Date – January 15, 2023

Thank you for your generosity. If you have questions, please contact Cathy Plevy at cathyp@ takomaparkmd.gov.

