

WHAT'S NEW?

COVID-19 Emergency Assistance

Details, page 4

Celebrate Black History Month with Takoma Arts

Details, page 5

Maryland Homeowners Assistance Fund

Details, page 12

City Offices & Facilities Closed

Sunday, Feb. 20 - Monday, Feb. 21
President's Day Holiday

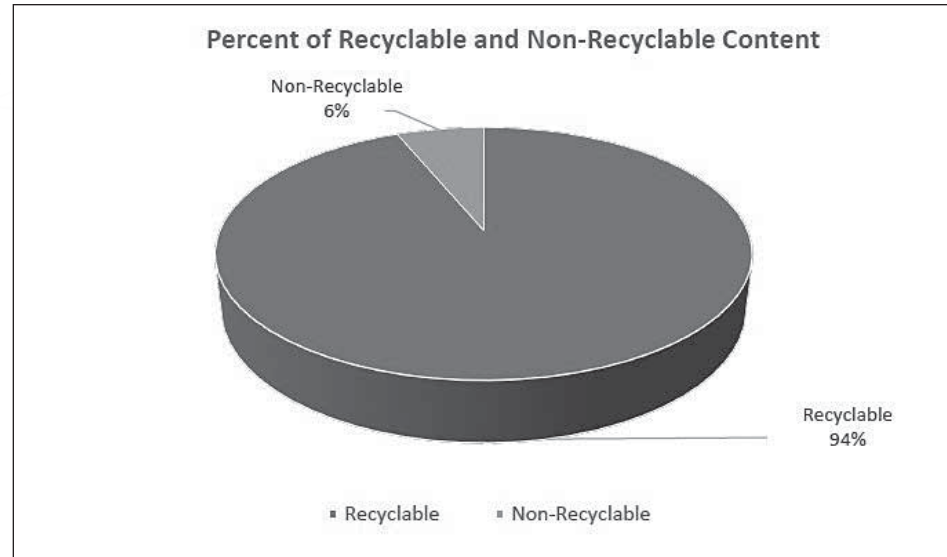
Trash/Recycling Collection

President's Day Holiday
Yard waste collection canceled
Monday, Feb. 21



Look for this icon throughout this issue

See page 10



The City's 6% contamination rate is impressive and a testament to each resident's dedication to creating a more sustainable City.

City of Takoma Park Residential Recycling Composition Study

"A significantly lower contamination rate than the United States as whole," that's how the Maryland Environmental Service described the City's recycling materials in their Residential Recycling Composition Study. The study, which was commissioned by the Department of Public Works at the end of 2021, is an as-

essment of the City's recycling program and designed to determine how much of a problem contamination presents to the program.

The scope of the project included analyzing one of the City's four recycling

RECYCLING □ Page 3



Information Literacy: A Special Report from the Takoma Park Maryland Library, Part Two

By Jill Raymond and Anne LeVeque

Last month we talked about the various forms of mis- and dis-information. Now we're going to talk about how we sort out the vast amount of information we are exposed to every day. Two central skills are required for discerning credible from non-credible information: first is the ability to set aside our emotions and desires and use our capacity for reason, accepting facts even when we don't like them; sec-

ond are the tools to recognize trustworthy information.

So, how do we know what is trustworthy? Is a source that is trustworthy always right, every time? Actually, no. A trustworthy source can be in error, resulting from lack of clarity, insufficient data, or honest misinterpretation of data. Dr. Anthony Fauci, and others, asked that people not wear masks at the beginning of the

INFORMATION LITERACY □ Page 8



City To Receive ARPA Federal Grant Funds

Takoma Park is a proud recipient of federal grant funds to support our response to, and recovery from, the COVID-19 public health emergency. The City will receive a total of \$17.4 million from the federal government, through the State of Maryland, in grant funds resulting from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. These funds are to be used over the next five years to respond to acute pandemic response needs in the community, support populations hardest-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, lay the groundwork for an equitable economic recovery, and fill government revenue shortfalls resulting from the public health emergency.

In 2021, \$3.9 million in ARPA funds were budgeted by the City Council for emergency rental assistance, food security, community engagement, administrative staffing, administrative oversight, and revenue loss. Staff recommendations for the use of the remaining ARPA balance of \$13,495,100 were presented to the community and the City Council at the meetings of January 18 and January 19, 2022, respectively.

The final ARPA Spending Plan will reflect Council and public feedback. City Council will vote on the final spending plan on February 2 (first reading of ordinance) and February 9 (second reading of ordinance).

Staff recommendations include the following areas of investment:

- 50% of ARPA funds are recommended to be used to assist the City's most vulnerable residents and businesses;
- 36% of ARPA funds are recommended to be used to invest in City facilities and public infrastructure;
- 14% of ARPA funds are recommended to be used to support

ARPA GRANT FUNDS □ Page 3

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

ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

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

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Community Grants Application Available
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New Youth Services Librarian
Page 8



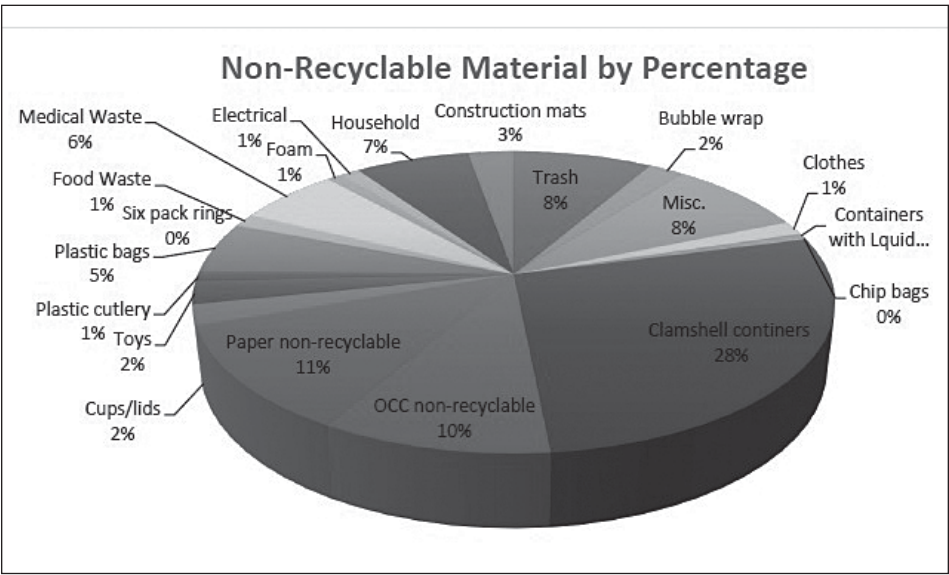
West African Fare in Takoma Park
Page 11

RECYCLING
From page 1

routes and manually separating the materials into categories. A total of 8,448 pounds of waste was sorted into 31 different groupings. Acceptable recycling made up 7,919 pounds and non-recyclable materials made up 530 pounds of the load. When compared to the national average of 17% as measured by the Recycling Partnership, the City's 6% contamination rate is impressive and a testament to each resident's dedication to creating a more sustainable City.

The study determined that other aspects of the City's recycling program are more consistent with the industry standard. For instance, fiber made up the largest number of recyclable materials with 39% of the total being paper and 28% being cardboard. This follows the industry average of roughly 60%-70%. Unsurprisingly, glass had the next highest volume at 23%, followed by plastics (5%) and metals (4%).

Contaminates were more interesting. Of the 530 pounds of non-recyclable materials, 145 pounds or 28% were clamshell containers. Clamshells are a type of plastic container most often used in food



Of the non-recyclable materials, 28% were clamshell containers.

packaging – think of the clam like clear plastic containers from your local grocery store used for strawberries and blueberries. Often these clamshells are made of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and technically recyclable; however, many Material Recycling Facilities (MRFs) – including the Prince George's County MRF where the City's recycling is processed –

do not accept clamshell containers. Clamshells are rejected for several reasons, but primarily because they are difficult to sort and process; as a result, when they are included in a recycling load, they typically end up in the wrong recycling bale. Recycling facilities sell bales of like recyclable material and receive the best price for bales of the highest quality.

If bales of paper, for example, are contaminated with clamshells, MRFs cannot receive top dollar. Other contaminants included non-recyclable fiber such as foiled wrapping paper, wax coated fiber (like vegetable boxes) and wet and food contaminated fibers. Bubble wrap, plastic bags and other film plastics were also identified. All these items should be placed in the garbage instead of the recycling. But what about all those recyclable clamshells? While they should not be included in your curbside recycling, clamshells can be taken to the Montgomery County Shady Grove Transfer Station at 16101 Frederick Road in Derwood, Maryland. Drop-offs at the transfer station are free for Montgomery County residents. While you are at it, you can also take any old paint and other hazardous waste that might be sitting in your basement – it can also be disposed of at the transfer station. The City and the Department of Public Works are very excited about the study's results and have made the study available for download on the City's website at tinyurl.com/yc7jhprd for all those interested in discovering more.

Sick, Injured or Deceased
Who to Contact for Deer/Animals in Need of Services



- If you discover an injured animal/deer on Takoma Park City property, contact the Takoma Park Police Department non-emergency number at 301-270-1100. If needed, Takoma Park Police will contact Montgomery County Animal Control to assist.
- If you discover a deceased deer/animal on City property, contact 311 or visit Report a Deceased Animal (www3.montgomerycountymd.gov/311/SolutionView.aspx?SolutionId=1-TG8QX) where you can create a service request to have the animal/deer removed.
- If you discover an injured and/or deceased animal/deer on Montgomery County Parks property, contact the Maryland National Capital Park Police at 301-949-3010.
- If you discover an uninjured animal/deer in need of rescue services on City or Park property, contact the Second Chance Wildlife rescue hotline at 301-926-9453 or visit the web site (www.scwc.org). Montgomery County Animal Control will not respond for uninjured animals.
- For wildlife emergencies, you can also contact the Maryland Natural Resources Police 24/7 at 410-260-8888.

ARPA GRANT FUNDS
From page 1

City operations, workforce, and fiscal stability. Our collective goal is to help households, businesses, and other City stakeholders respond to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts while making strategic investments in the City's operations, workforce, public infrastructure, and fiscal health. Please visit the City of Takoma Park's ARPA web page for more information about upcoming opportunities to be a part of the process. If you have specific questions or comments, send them to ARPA@takomaparkmd.gov.



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER
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Assistant: Sean Gossard
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Important City Phone Numbers

City Information	301-891-7100
City Clerk	301-891-7267
Communications	301-891-7236
Finance	301-891-7212
Housing & Community Development	301-891-7119
Library	301-891-7259
Neighborhood Services	301-891-7113
Police	301-270-1100 / Emergency 911
Public Works	301-891-7633
Recreation/Facilities Rental	301-891-7290



BUILDING COMMUNITY



DON'T WAIT TO GET HELP

The City of Takoma Park can help City residents in need of emergency assistance with housing matters (eviction and foreclosure), utility disconnections, food insecurity, prescription assistance, and other emergency needs. For more information, contact the Department of Housing and Community Development at 301-891-7119 or email at housing@takomaparkmd.gov.



City of Takoma Park FY23 Community Grants Application Opening This Month

The Community Grants Program funds projects that provide greater access to the arts, sciences, technology, economic development, and engineering in Takoma Park. This grant program is open to non-profit organizations and business associations and provides up to \$10,000 in financial support. Although not required, the City is encouraging applications for programs that connect arts and sciences with skills that promote job-readiness for Takoma Park residents.

The online application will close March 11, 2022. Interested parties should register for a free account on

the Community Grants page found at takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/grant-programs/community-grants. Previous online applicants will be notified automatically.

To see if your organization is eligible for funding, visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/grant-programs/community-grants to review our guidelines on the Community Grants Page. For more information, please contact Jennifer Hale, Grants Coordinator, at JenniferH@TakomaParkMD.gov.



Takoma Park's 2022 iCan Shine Bike Camp

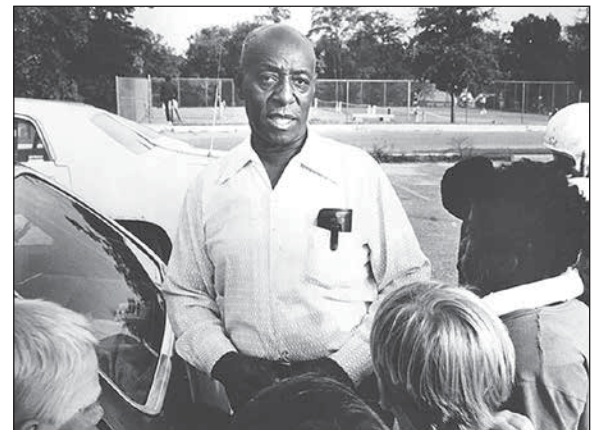
Unfortunately, this year's iCan Shine Takoma Park Bike Camp has been canceled. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, bike ridership has increased tremendously in our city, region, and nation. Although we are happy to see this positive transportation alternative trend, the challenges of this increased demand have made it difficult for new riders to get bikes. The beauty of Takoma Park's free annual iCan Shine Bike Camp is that it focuses on creating a safe and encouraging environment to teach individuals with

disabilities how to ride bikes. All riders must, however, bring their own personal bikes to use during the camp. We recognize that safety during the pandemic and the national bike shortage will present some challenges, limiting the capabilities of many new riders from participating. For other regional iCan Shine Bike Camp opportunities outside of Takoma Park, visit www.icanshine.org/programs/find-a-program. We hope to see you in 2023!

Stories to Tell: Chronicling Takoma Park's Black History

In 2019 Historic Takoma launched an initiative to collect the stories of African American families who settled in Takoma Park beginning in the 1920s and '30s through subsequent decades, forging their own cohesive community despite racial and economic discrimination. The team that came together for this effort — which includes an oral historian, a documentary filmmaker, and community members with their own knowledge and skills — has focused on conducting oral histories with older residents (current and former) who grew up in Takoma Park. A 10-minute film on the legendary Lee Jordan provides a sampling of these conversations. (See the film, *Mr. Lee: the Life & Legacy of Lee Jordan*, along with Historic Takoma's 2020 Black History program, including comments and testimonials from audience members, on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5hlkkXZac&t=32s.)

The Stories from the African American Community Team is working to develop and produce several short videos drawing from the oral histories and additional research focusing on various topics and



Lee Jordan with local children

themes. These will be accessible online for use in schools, home viewing, and screenings across the city. The team also plan to produce a book featuring the edited oral history narratives. And the full videotaped oral histories will be available through Historic Takoma's archives. This work has been made possible by funding from Takoma Park's Community Grants Program with additional support from the Maryland Humanities Council. For more information, visit historictakoma.org/focus-area-african-american.



CARE

Caring About Residents Everyday

A program directed at our residents who live alone with special needs, or just need to be checked on each day.

CARE is another way we can give back to the community and take care of those in need.

To learn more about the program, or to register, visit www.takomaparkmd.gov/police under Services & Programs



Celebrate Black History Month with *Takoma Park Arts*

Black history and the arts are inextricably linked, wound together through the indelible contributions of Black artists, musicians, authors, actors, dancers, and filmmakers. The *Takoma Park Arts* cultural series, which is organized by the City's Arts and Humanities Division, celebrates those contributions during Black History Month and throughout the year with free events featuring the talents of local Black artists and entertainers.

Some of our upcoming events have been postponed or shifted online due to concerns about the pandemic. Please join us on Feb. 10 for the online premiere of our next Vintage Movie Night. Many former events can be viewed on our YouTube channel at artsevents.takomaparkmd.gov. You also can get more info and sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at takomaparkmd.gov/arts.

**Vintage Movie Night:
Whitewashing U.S. History**
Online premiere on Feb. 10, 8 p.m.
YouTube link at
artsevents.takomaparkmd.gov

Archival film enthusiast Richard Hall will share his curated selection of mid-20th century classroom film clips from an era when the experiences of Black people and indigenous people were almost never seen or heard. As state legislatures pass new laws that are reactions against a true accounting of America's racist past, take a journey back in time to the *not-so-good-old days* when filmmakers and educators erased the history of minority groups and celebrated white founders and pioneers.



Yasmin Williams

**A Night of Guitar Music with
Yasmin Williams**
bit.ly/YasminWilliamsConcert

Yasmin Williams has become a star with her untraditional acoustic finger-style guitar playing. Her *Takoma Park Arts* concert at the Takoma Park Community Center in 2020 was one of our most popular events,



Vintage Movie Night: Whitewashing U.S. History

which has been viewed more than 17,000 times on YouTube. Williams uses various unique techniques, including alternate tunings, lap tapping, and a violinist bow. She has been featured in the *New York Times* and on NPR as well as other media outlets. You can hear more of her music at yasminwilliamsmusic.com.

**Black Voices in Verse
Poetry Reading**
bit.ly/BlackVoicesinVerse

This timely poetry reading features three Black poets whose powerful work challenges the status quo and pervasive racism in the United States. Saida Agostini is a queer Afro-Guyanese poet whose work explores the ways that Black folks harness mythology to enter the fantastic.

Her poetry has been featured in *Barrelhouse Magazine*, the *Black Ladies Brunch Collective's* anthology, and other publications. Kyle Dargan is an associate professor of literature and assistant director of creative writing at American University as well as the founder and editor of *POST NO ILLS* magazine. Emily Kombe is majoring in public policy at the University of Maryland. She was introduced to slam poetry five years ago and uses the arts as a vehicle for social justice.

**Vintage Movie Night: Black
Artists and Musicians**
bit.ly/BlackArtistsandMusicians

The amazing talents of Black musicians and artists are featured in vintage short films spanning half a century. You'll see

1940s newsreels, musical scenes starring Duke Ellington and Bessie Smith, a history of jazz, a profile of famous Black artists, and much more. Don't miss this chance to see and hear how Black musicians and artists have shaped American history.

**Poetry from Behind Bars
Poetry Reading**
bit.ly/PoetryfromBehindBars

In the "land of the free," the United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world, but the people behind bars are more than just numbers. In this moving poetry reading, Poet Ambassadors from the Free Minds Book Club read poetry they wrote while incarcerated in the D.C. jail or federal prisons. Their poignant words reveal the human costs of our prison-industrial complex and the power of poetry to offer redemption and healing.

**Voices of Woodlawn
Poetry Reading**
bit.ly/VoicesofWoodlawn

In a unique collaboration, three Black poets and a white poet from the D.C. area share their moving poetry about the troubled history of Woodlawn, a former 2,000-acre plantation in Alexandria once owned by George Washington where more than 90 enslaved people were forced to work. The poets include Sylvia Dianne "Ladi Di" Beverly, Hiram Larew, Diane Wilbon Parks, and Patrick Washington accompanied by harmonica player Cliff Bernier. This timely poetry reading connects Black history through the centuries from slavery to the Black Lives Matter movement.



Poet Ambassadors from the Free Minds Book Club

RECREATION

SPECIAL EVENT

12th Annual Mid-Winter Play Day

Attention! Attention! Yes, that's right. Let's Play America and the Takoma Park Recreation Department have teamed up to present to you the 12th Annual Mid-Winter Play Day! Come join Let's Play America and the Takoma Park Recreation Department for a fun afternoon of indoor play. Free fun for all. It's time for you to let your hair down, put on your comfy clothes, and get ready to play! To see a full listing of activities and performances, www.letsplayamerica.org. See you there!

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
All Ages
Sunday, 1–4 p.m.
February 13
Free

TOTS

SPORTS



Tot Sports

Children are introduced to the fundamentals of sports such as soccer and basketball. The goal of this program is to provide the opportunity for each child to develop motor skills and nurture their growth socially and emotionally through teamwork and good sportsmanship. Instructor: Recreation Staff

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Ave
3–5 years
Saturdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Through March 5
\$55

YOUTH

EXTENDED CARE

Fun Days

Fun Days are offered on specific days when Montgomery County Public Schools are not in session. The program is designed to provide recreational activities for children enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade. Through structured, socially distanced activities, crafts and presentations, there are opportunities for socializing, unwinding, and releasing energy. Participants must bring masks, lunches, snacks and labeled water bottles. Activities and performers are subject to change. **Registration is required. You can sign up for one day or both.** Space is limited; sign up early. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to attending.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
5–12 years
Friday, April 1
Monday, May 2
* Register starting in March
8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Resident: \$50 / Non-resident: \$60

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CITY RESIDENTS

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



SPRING BREAK

Spring Break Camp: Nature Explorers

Come experience the great outdoors with Takoma Park Recreation. Join us for a week of hikes, crafts, games, and fun. Find out why the sun is so important; water is essential to all living creatures, and how trees play an important part in daily life! Participants will meet at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Participants must bring masks, lunches, snacks and labeled water bottles. Space is limited; sign up early. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of camp.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
5–12 years
1 Week Session
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
April 11-April 15
Resident: \$140 / Non-resident: \$160

Soccer Camp

This camp, run by a soccer coach, will provide children with the opportunity to improve their soccer skills. Some conditioning exercises and drills will be a part of the camp's daily schedule. Participants should bring a non-perishable lunch, water bottle, and a towel.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
5–12 years
1 Week Session
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
April 11-April 15
\$200

Spring Break Camp Before & After Care

This option is available for families who require or desire additional activities beyond the regular camp hours. Activities include games, outdoor play, and sports (available for Soccer Camp at the Recreation Center and Spring Break Camp at the Community Center). Space is limited to participants in Spring Break Camps. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of the program.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
OR
Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
April 11-April 15
Before Care: 7–9 a.m.
After Care: 4–6 p.m.
Resident: \$40 / Non-resident: \$50

DANCE

Ballet & Stretch

This beginning ballet class focuses on stretching strategies using ballet foundations. Participants will learn ballet terminology, ballet technique and balancing. Instructor: Charonne Butler

Heffner Park Community Center
42 Oswego Avenue
5–11 years
Saturdays, 10:30–11:15 a.m.
February 12 - April 2
Resident: \$35 / Non-resident: \$45

Hip-Hop Dance

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

Heffner Park Community Center
42 Oswego Avenue
5–11 years
Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
February 12 - April 2
Resident: \$35 / Non-resident: \$45

SPORTS

Basketball Skills

This class will teach the fundamentals of the sport. Good Sportsmanship will be emphasized. Participants will be provided with excellent coaching. You will learn proper dribbling, shooting, and defensive techniques. Instructor: Greg Harris

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Ave
6–12 years
Saturdays, 12–1 p.m.
Through March 12
\$80

TEENS

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Power Hour

Take advantage of our homework power hour focusing on academic support. We are the perfect balance of academics and fun. Students are given quiet time to complete homework or to read. Staff is available to assist and can review the completed assignments. Registration is not required.

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Ongoing Monday-Thursday
3:30–4:30 p.m.
Free

CAMP

Spring Break P.R.E.P.S. Week

Spring Break P.R.E.P.S. (Planning and Researching for Educational and Professional Success) week is about assisting teens in planning for their future. During this week, teens will be able to participate in discussions to get a sense of life after high school. Whether it's your goal to go to college or pick up a trade, we're going to explore your options. Come with questions, an open mind, and a bag lunch! Before and After care are available for an additional fee.
Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
April 11–15
Resident: \$135 / Non-resident: \$150

DRAMA

Dungeons & Dragons

They creep through the twilight, quiet as shadows muttering a language long forgotten, a language only spoken by ghosts. Use your imagination and storytelling ability in this classic fantasy role-playing game. Roll dice to cast spells and battle monsters. Creativity and cooperation help the group "survive." Instructor: Dave Burbank

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Auditorium
12–18 years
Thursdays, 4–6 p.m.
Session 1: Through February 24
Session 2: March 3-April 7
Resident: \$55 / Non-resident: \$65

ADULT

ART

Make a tile-Paint a tile



This class will be making tiles and decorating bought bisque tiles. The tiles will be made and designed of flowers or leaves or lace pressed into the clay. Many objects can be used; it's the student's choice. The bisque tiles will be painted, stamped and/or stenciled. The instructor will have many of these to be used. The tiles will be fired and glazed, and colorful permanent tiles will be taken home. There will be a \$10 materials fee that will be due to the instructor on the first day of class for clay, boards, glazes, and bisque tiles. Instructor: Alice Sims

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Art Studio
16 & Up
Saturdays, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.
February 12-March 12
Resident: \$20 / Non-resident: \$30
Materials Fee: \$10

Painting Exploration

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



Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Art Studio
16 & Up
Fridays, 10–11:30 a.m.
Session 1: through March 4
Session 2: March 11-April 29
Resident: \$140 / Non-resident: \$160
Materials Fee: \$35

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Writing Life Stories

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



RECREATION

RECREATION

■ From page 6

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

FITNESS

Afrobeat/Afro-ndombolo Dance Class



A contemporary Afro Dance company specializing in African dancing, Zuri Sana'a DanXercise's mission is to bring you joy and memories through the art of dance. Zuri Sana'a DanXercise combines hip hop, salsa, dancehall, contemporary and African dance moves within our choreography to create a memorable workout experience. Our moves are feasible and suitable for all ages. Participants will be able to shred calories and learn fun choreography all in one class. Instructor: Khady N'Diaye

Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
16 & Up
Thursdays, 7–8 p.m.
Through March 31
Resident: \$10 / Non-resident: \$20

Body Works Plus Abs



Body Works Plus Abs is a toning exercise where you tone in a high repetition, light dumbbell workout, that will take you through a variety of exercises while you move to the beat of the music. This class improves muscle tone, posture, balance, and strength. It is a true total body workout. Participants will need to bring light dumbbells and exercise mats to the class. Instructor: Akou Basse

Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
16 & Up
Fridays, 6–7 p.m.
February 11 - March 18
Resident: \$60 / Non-resident: \$70

Iyengar Yoga for Beginners (Hybrid)



This class will introduce you to yoga as taught by the Iyengar Method. This method opens the practice of yoga for everyone. The use of props and a step-by-step approach teaches alignment and brings strength and flexibility. The basic postures are introduced, and awareness is created in the whole body. As awareness of every part of the body is felt, energy is generated, and the breath is engaged. The aim is to bring into alignment the different parts of the body to associate the breath and mind and release tension and stress. Instructor: Tehseen Chettri

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

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

Moonlight Qi Gong II



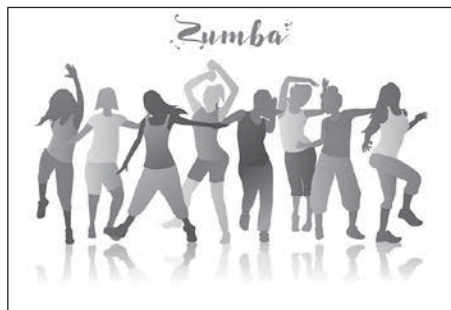
Moonlight Qi Gong enhances the quiet, gentle, peaceful yin side of our energy in the winter months, balancing the warm, active, bright sunlight yang energy. These six beautiful movement forms strengthen and align the body, focus the mind, reducing stress and tension while bringing the body and mind together in the



breath. No experience necessary. Instructor: Patrick Smith

***Registration is required for virtual classes; a link will be emailed once you register.**

Virtual
18 & Up
Tuesdays, 7:30–8 p.m.
Through March 15
Resident: \$25 / Non-resident: \$35



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: Akou Basse

Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
16 & Up
Saturdays, 10:15–11:15 a.m.
February 12 - March 19
Resident: \$60 / Non-Resident: \$70
Drop-In: \$15

SPORTS

Takoma Park Adult Softball League: Team Registration Is Open!

Dust off your glove and warm up your swing, the Takoma Park Adult Softball League is back! This is a fun and exciting co-ed recreational program for competitive adults of all skill levels. Gather some friends to enjoy the spring season on the softball field! Team registrations must contain a minimum of 50 percent Takoma Park residents to qualify for the resident team entry fee. Roster limit is 15. Top 4 teams advance to the playoffs. No games on Mother's Day or Memorial Day weekend. Email tpsports@takomaparkmd.gov for more information.

Various Field Locations

16 and older
8 Week Season
Sundays, April 3-June 12
9:30 a.m.–1 p.m.
Resident Team Fee: \$645 / Non-resident Team Fee: \$745

Takoma Park Adult Softball League: Free Agent

Interested in joining the fun but don't have a team? Sign up as a free agent to be placed on a waiting list. You will be contacted if a space becomes available. Should you join a team, you will be responsible to pay your registration and any other associated team fees. *Spaces are not guaranteed.*

RECREATION □ Page 9



Welcome New Recreation Department Staff Member, Haven Rhodd!

The Recreation Department is pleased to welcome a new addition to our Get Out and Play crew! Take a few moments to get to know Haven, who joins us as the Youth Success Coordinator.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself and your hobbies.

A: My name is Haven Rhodd, and I grew up in Prince George's County, Maryland. I graduated from the illustrious North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University with a BA in psychology in 2018. Since then, it has been my personal mission to be a positive influence on my community, and I have always sought out opportunities to do so. My hobbies include cooking, playing the Sims, and obsessing over fitness. I have a passion for cooking nutritious foods that also taste good and fuel me to get a great workout in. I am also currently a graduate student in the Masters of Public Administration and Masters of Nonprofit Management dual enrollment program at the University of Central Florida.

Q: What recreation programs were you involved in growing up and how do you feel they shaped who you are now?

A: I was not involved in any recreation programs growing up; however, I did participate in extra-



Haven Rhodd

curricular activities such as the Student Humanitarian Organization and marching band. While in marching band, I played the clarinet for about two years before switching to the trumpet my senior year of high school. Marching band played such a huge role in my life because it is how I ended up choosing my alma mater and how I learned to be more disciplined and dedicated in all that I choose to do.

Q: What are you most excited about regarding your new position?

A: I am most excited about becoming an active

member in the community. During the pandemic, I have really missed working with the youth and their families as well as planning programs and events for community members to enjoy. I am passionate about enhancing the lives of others, so it is very exciting to have a position in which I can do that again.

Q: What inspires you to continue your work with teens and young adults?

A: It inspires me to know that I can serve as a level of support that is different from parents and teachers but still necessary. The work that I do allows me to be a friend, a mentor, or even a family member for these young people. I love that I can serve as the person I wish I had when I was growing up.

Q: What have you enjoyed so far about the City of Takoma Park?

A: What I have enjoyed about the City of Takoma Park is the familial feel within the community. Everyone seems to want to help each other, which is really refreshing. I am looking forward to working here and learning more about Takoma Park!

LIBRARY



Director's Column: Bienvenidas, Verónica

I am thrilled to introduce our new Youth Services Manager Librarian, Verónica Rivera-Negrón (she/her/ella), who started working with us in January. Please help us welcome Verónica to Takoma Park!

—Jessica Jones



And I love them so much that the art of storytelling – whether it is through words, images, music, voice, or movement – has shaped my career path and brought me to this job. I have a BA in Theater and Journalism and an MFA in Performance as Public Practice. Through these degrees,

I have learned to do arts-based programming for children and teens.

This means that I use the arts as a tool for learning about other disciplines and for socio-emotional skill-building. I have done this work in informal education settings like museums and community centers throughout the past seven years. I am very excited to continue this work and learn a lot from my new colleagues and community members at the Takoma Park Maryland Library! I have seen what the library has done to inspire young people to love stories, and I look forward to continuing those efforts. Así que, ¡nos vemos pronto!

— Verónica Rivera-Negrón



Verónica Rivera-Negrón

Listen to this!

By Kati Nolfi,
Children's Librarian

Consider this: New Year, No Diet

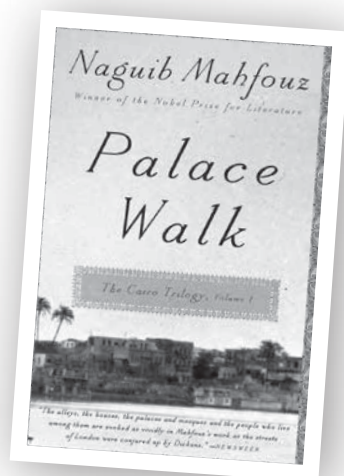
If that sounds good to you, check out the Food Psych Podcast with Christy Harrison. Harrison is an anti-diet registered dietician, certified intuitive eating counselor, and author of the book *Anti-Diet: Reclaim Your Time, Money, Well-Being, and Happiness Through Intuitive Eating*. There are many intuitive/mindful eating podcasts now, but when Food Psych began in 2013,



Harrison was a pioneer. Her guests are experts in topics ranging from yoga to antiracism to navigating the medical system and more. Her podcast can be rough listening sometimes, when guests recount difficult histories with food and eating, but it is also a trove of useful information. As the recent *Atlantic* article stated, “resolutions are not the vibe of 2022.” This is a good time to try something different.

Friends' Big Book Club

Reminder: The FTPML Big Book Club will read *Palace Walk* by the Egyptian novelist Naguib Mahfouz this spring. There will be three or four sessions of discussion, which will include an introductory presentation. It is available as an audiobook on Hoopla and the library has several copies.



Hours and Calendar

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

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

Holiday Closings

The library and computer center will be closed in honor of Presidents Day on Sunday, February 20 and Monday, February 21.

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

CALENDAR

We're continuing to offer many great library programs – weekly and monthly – via Zoom. To participate, go to <https://zoom.us>, click on “Join a Meeting,” and put in the Meeting ID (and Meeting password, if any) listed with each program. Registration isn't required for these programs, but if you are registered, we will send reminders as well as notices of any changes or cancellations. To register, go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryprograms. Please refresh your browser first to ensure you get the most updated information. Also, please make sure you register for the “Zoom” version of these programs.

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

Zoom Circle Time: Join Ms. Kati every Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. for an online Circle Time via Zoom. To participate,

go to <https://zoom.us>, and click on “Join a Meeting.” Then put in this Meeting ID: 995-4901-8825 and Meeting Password: 178851. At Circle Time, we sing songs, have fun with fingerplays and rhymes, and do lots of dancing and movement exercises. We read one book in the middle of the program.

Zoom Comics Jam: Once a month, generally on the second Wednesday at 4 p.m. The next date is February XX. Please register for Zoom Comics Jam at www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents; we'll send an email with the next date to all registered. The Meeting ID for Zoom Comics Jam is 734-913-6285. No Meeting Password needed.

Zoom Spanish Circle Time: Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. To participate in Zoom Spanish Circle Time, go to: <https://zoom.us>. Then put in Meeting ID: 959-5178-5847 and Meeting Password: 793725.

Zoom Scribbler's Cabal: Fridays at 4 p.m. Meeting ID is 734-913-6285 (same as Comics Jam), no Meeting Password needed.

INFORMATION LITERACY

■ From page 1

COVID-19 pandemic, thinking it would cause a shortage and medical personnel would not have enough; there were shortages of protective materials in the beginning, but as the science of the virus came in to better focus, it was clear that mask wearing offered great protection for the public; many people began making masks to help mitigate the shortage, and production ramped up. The knowledge around this issue continues to evolve.

Science builds its knowledge base on information gleaned from multiple failed experiments. The details of these experiments are critiqued by other experts in the same field, which is why we say that trustworthiness comes from facts as society currently has the tools to discern them. The tools of discernment examine factors like intent, expertise, and transparency regarding data, methods, and connection to monied interests, etc.

Disinformation involves malicious intent. Disinformation is false information promoted to achieve a particular end goal that benefits the perpetrator, either financially, socially, politically, or militarily. Disinformation is usually (but not always) a professional product. Like actors on a stage, or sophisticated advertising techniques, it is packaged to deceive and to look like “the real thing.” One recent example is the well-documented effort by the Russian government to influence the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

Disinformation morphs as the public conversation shifts over time and as true and factual information becomes available to more people. For example, those

who publicly deny climate change and the science behind it began to call themselves (and get the media to refer to them as) climate *skeptics*, which sounds much more thoughtful, often naming themselves something that sounds quite public-service-minded, like “Institute for Energy Research.” They try to discredit climate science by casting doubt on the evidence although their “experts” are often tied to the fossil fuels industry or to far-right wing organizations with political agendas tied to climate denial. A famous tobacco industry document from the 1960s said, “*Doubt is our product since it is the best means of competing with the ‘body of fact’ that exists in the minds of the general public.*”

Do your own research: Google and Wikipedia. One problem in discerning information is semantic: The word research is used for many different levels of inquiry from scientific research into diseases to looking up the definition of a word with which we're unfamiliar. Using Google is fine for a general inquiry and frequently takes you to a Wikipedia page as part of its results. Wikipedia is a user-edited encyclopedia and thus is subject to problems of bias. It does its best to address these issues, but it's not perfect. Wikipedia is a good starting place. The example given at the beginning of this article, Critical Race Theory, was adequately addressed by looking at Wikipedia. The article was clearly scholarly and had many sources and footnotes. Those sources and footnotes are a good indicator of the reliability of an article.

When a scholar is beginning a re-

INFORMATION LITERACY
From page 8

search project, they will go further than Wikipedia, of course. They will begin by searching academic databases for their topic, reading those articles, and further researching the footnotes and references given by those articles.

Another use of the word research is the clinical trials and laboratory experiments conducted by scientists. This kind of research is based on the foundations laid by prior research as well as the preliminary research done by searching databases.

For most of us, when we research a topic, we just want to see what Google or Wikipedia says. However, if we want verified, reliable information, we should go to such resources as Encyclopedia Britannica, Oxford Reference resources, and others, all of which are available through the library's website.

Mnemonic Tools to Help You Evaluate Information

Librarians have come up with a variety of useful mnemonic devices for tools that help us evaluate information. These include PANDAS and CRAAP.

PANDAS stands for:

- Personal - Do your personal beliefs affect your response to the information?
- Agenda - Is the article trying to convince you of something?
- Name - Is the article attributed to an expert?
- Date - Is the article current?
- Advertisements/sponsors - Has the article been paid for?
- Sources - Does the article cite reliable sources?

CRAAP stands for:

- Currency - How recent is the information?
- Relevance - How important is the information to the question at hand?
- Authority - What are the source's credentials?
- Accuracy - Is the information supported by evidence?
- Purpose - What are the source's intentions?

On the library's website, you will find more information about both methods of looking critically at information.

paid for access to these resources.

There are other valuable resources online for checking facts and quelling rumors. One of the best is Snopes.com, which began as a fact-checker of urban legends but has expanded into a trusted source of information.

non-profit school for journalists.

Speaking of doubt. This brings us to two important caveats as we think about how to navigate the oceans of mis- and dis-information on the internet and in our conversations.

- 1. Cynicism and nihilism are the by-products of a chaotic and unreliable information environment. To throw one's hands up and surrender, to find oneself saying "they all lie" or "they all

cheat and steal" is as damaging to our info-ecosystem as spouting the tenets of the newest cult. To be critical is not the same as adopting a posture of manufactured cynicism. Criticism shines light, and it does not promote hopelessness, which is the real goal of many purveyors of disinformation.

- 2. Critical thinking does not exclude marginalized or minority voices. The insights from racial, ethnic and gender minorities have been excluded, deliberately and otherwise, from much of public discourse.

Our tools of discernment and fact-checking must become habits of thought, like looking both ways before crossing a street. The good news is that the more people there are being careful with information, the easier the job becomes because we share reliable and credible sources.

Library Director Jessica Jones contributed to this article.

A note to readers: The authors posted references, footnotes, and some expanded content on the library website, including links to reliable sources of information along with some amusing illustrations and memes. Go to www.takomapark.info for more information.

RECREATION
From page 7

55+

ART

Painting (flowers)

Brighten the winter days and get creative with paint. Enjoy the supportive and positive atmosphere to learn at your own speed.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Art Studio
55 & up
Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
February 9-March 2
\$5

DANCE



Belly Dancing

In this easy-to-follow class, we'll explore the foundational techniques of Middle Eastern belly dance known as "raqs sharqi" and learn the gentle movements of hip circles, shimmies, figure eights and more.

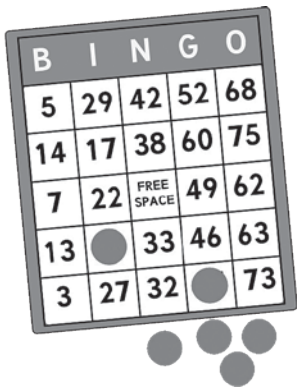
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
55 & Up
Thursday, 10-11 a.m.
Through March 31
\$5

Line Dance

New Tuesday class added. Line Dancing is an enjoyable social activity that provides great physical and mental exercise. It helps to strengthen bones and muscles. It also increases stamina and flexibility as well as supports weight loss and stress reduction.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
55 & Up
Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Through March 22
\$5

DROP-IN



Bingo

Come try your luck and win a prize. No registration required. Host: Paula Lisowski

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Senior Room
55 & Up
Tuesday, 12-2 p.m.
February 22
Free

Let's Play America invites you to join us for our 12th Annual Mid-Winter Play Day

Sunday, February 13th, 2022
1pm - 4pm

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue

Outdoor Games!
Indoor Activities!
Free Refreshments!
Performances!

Free play event for all ages!

Follow us on Social Media
@lets.play.america | @america_plays | Let's Play America

Contact us: info@letsplayamerica.org | www.letsplayamerica.org



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

Maryland fire deaths

Starting out in 2022, 2 people have died compared to 8 in 2021.

Your number one defense in the event of a fire is having working smoke alarms on all levels of your home. Test them monthly!

Hot vehicle deaths

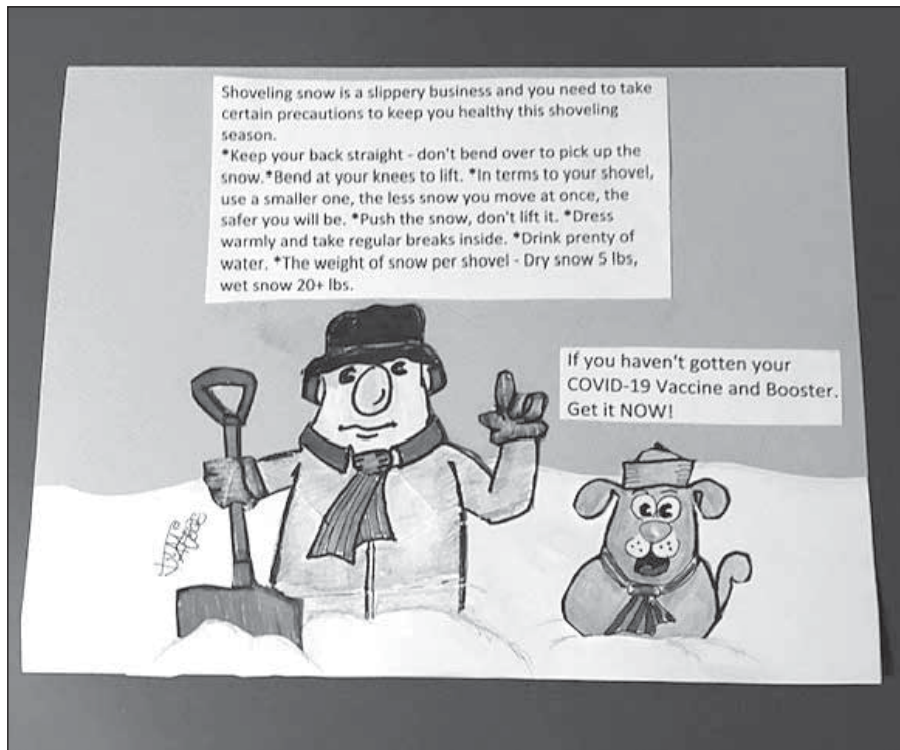
The total number deaths of children for 2021 was 23. The grand total since 1998 is 906. On average 38

children die in hot vehicles each year across the country. Remember: If you are out in your vehicle, everyone goes with you and lock the vehicle.

Safety Message

The extreme cold weather is here. Here are a few safety tips:

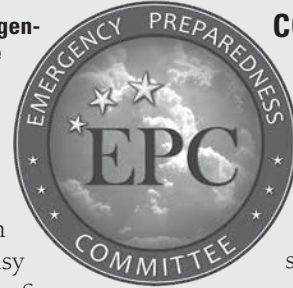
- Make sure you have working smoke alarms on all levels of your home and check them monthly.
- Never leave lit candles unattended. When you leave the room, take it with you or put it out.
- Space heaters - make sure they are three feet from furniture, etc.
- Generators - Never use them in your home or garage.
- Finally, never leave cooking on the stove unattended.



"It Ain't Over Till It's Over"

(Yogi Berra, 1973)

By Claudine Schweber, Emergency Preparedness Committee



COVID scams

Yes, scammers have been busy selling phony COVID testing kits.

- Scams include charging for tests that have been advertised as free; fake tests; sites that do not return results; pop-up sites in shopping areas, tents in parks and more.

- If your tests did not arrive or were junk, cancel the credit card payment and send a report to reportfraud.ftc.gov.

COVID-19 vaccines and tests:

- Need to get vaccinated? Visit www.vaccines.gov/search. This website allows you to select the manufacturer (e.g., Pfizer, Moderna, etc.), location, and sites with available appointments.
- Need to check if you have COVID? Effective January 19, 2021, the White House announced that "Every home in the U.S. can soon order four free at-home COVID-19 tests. The tests will be completely free—there are no shipping costs, and you don't need to enter a credit card number." (www.covidtests.gov) Test should be delivered by the U.S. Postal Service mail in 7-12 business days after ordering.
- More good news: Effective January 15, insurance companies and group health plans must cover the full cost of at-home COVID-19 tests for a maximum eight tests per individual covered. (See hhs.gov and search free at-home covid tests)

In addition, Montgomery County offered free rapid test kits at county libraries: two tests per kit and two kits per person. Note: The hours vary; some libraries begin distribution at 12 noon; others at 5 p.m. Check if this is still available this month. (www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/testing/rapid-tests.html)

Takoma Park also offers information about vaccination and test sites, and more resources—in various languages (Click select language in the upper right). (takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/information-and-resources-covid-19)

Winter Storms

Yes, we had rain, storms, and snow in January. This rain can freeze when it hits the ground or may start out frozen in the clouds and then coat the streets and power lines; sleet which is ice pellets hitting the ground; freezing temperatures and snow; strong winds; and the ice can weigh down the power lines, resulting in no electricity. Heavy ice storms can tear off the cellular antenna towers, causing poor or no power for cell phones!

What to do:

- Stay off roads if possible. If trapped in your car, then stay inside and contact police and your emergency contact list members. Make sure you have water and other supplies in the car.
- Limit your time outside. If you need to go outside, then wear layers of warm clothing. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.
- Make sure you have working flashlights, batteries, and fully charged cell phones near you. Do not use lighted candles!
- Sign up for Takoma Park Alerts (takomaparkmd.gov/services/takoma-park-alert).
- Watch some preparedness videos before there's a problem (www.ready.gov/videos).

As Yogi Berra warned us, "It ain't over." Are you prepared?

Contact us 301-891-7126 or tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov. Join us once a month for "Dear Bea(trice) Prepared" on Talk of Takoma, WOWD/LP 94.3FM.



Editor's note

English:

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

French:

Recherchez cette icône à côté des articles du bulletin que

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

Spanish:

Busque este ícono junto a los artículos del boletín que puede leer en línea en otros idiomas usando

la función de traducción en el sitio web de la Ciudad de Takoma Park. Después de hacer clic en el enlace del artículo, busque en la esquina superior derecha de la página web junto a la barra de navegación y seleccione el idioma que desee con el cuadro desplegable.

Amharic:

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Passport Services

Passport Services are available by appointment only Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center on the second floor. Appointments are required and can be scheduled by emailing sofiav@takomaparkmd.gov or calling 301-891-7100. Masks are required at the City building. Passport service hours are subject to change without notice. Whenever possible, office closures will be announced on Facebook, Twitter, and the City's website. For additional information, visit takomaparkmd.gov/services/passports.





Mansa Kunda opened at 8000 Flower Ave. in January 2019.



Mansa Kunda serves West African fare along with a wide selection of wines.

Mansa Kunda Brings West African Fare to Takoma Park

By Sean Gossard

Hatib Joof wanted the tastes, smells, and hospitality that he knew from his native country of the Gambia, but when it came to West African fine dining in the region, there was an obvious shortcoming. “There was a vacuum that I had to fill because at the time there wasn’t a fine-dining West African restaurant,” Joof said. “There was always some hole-in-the-wall place for the cuisine, but not for the dining experience. I thought that we were missing out on literally introducing the cuisine and hospitality to America.”

So, in January of 2019, he opened Mansa Kunda, which translates to “kingdom” in Mandinka, at 8000 Flower Ave. to bring the flavors of Western Africa to Takoma Park. Featuring fresh West African ingredients like the African Baobab fruit, one of the most nutrient-rich foods on the planet; shito, a Ghanaian hot pepper condiment; and tamarind, a sour tropical fruit often used in Indian curries and chutneys, Mansa Kunda quickly gained an adoring fan-base, being named one of The Washington Post’s 10 Best Casual

Dining Restaurants for 2019.

“The food, in most cases, is unorthodox,” said Joof, the former operations manager at Spring Mill Bread Company in Takoma Park. “It took a while for me to take our menu and extract the items that I wanted from around the region and to be able to cook 90% of the dishes as vegan or vegetarian. I am a vegetarian of over 20 years. It was very important to me to solve the problem of making sure that everyone who walks into the door is fed and satisfied.”

Joof says getting the flavors correct is vital to him, but there are some obstacles to overcome regarding shipping and importing certain ingredients. “Authenticity is very, very important to me,” he said. “You try as hard as you can to maintain the taste and quality of the food. There are some things that aren’t allowed to enter the U.S., so some things may be different, but we find a way to work it out.”

Operating the restaurant got a bit more difficult after that first year when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. For Joof, the pandemic has been both extremely challeng-

ing and a chance to learn. “We had a full year of business bliss in 2019,” Joof said. “It was an excellent year for the first time around, but then by March 2020, when the pandemic hit, I honestly thought it would only be three or four months and we’d weather the storm, but it’s been two years.”

But through weathering that storm, Joof has learned to be resilient in what’s commonly a very difficult industry, even without a global pandemic. “I used the pandemic as a learning tool to see where the mistakes were being made and where I could improve,” Joof said. “I learned a lot on how to maneuver myself on people’s experience with the cuisine.”

For Joof, the location at 8000 Flower Ave. in Takoma Park was an incredibly important one. “I’m hoping that with this location, which is in a residential area, that I am creating a resemblance of ‘Cheers,’ where people don’t have to drive and they can take an evening walk to come grab a glass of wine and dessert and enjoy themselves,” he said. “The location used to be a convenience store for 10 years

before I got my hands on it. And to me it was a blank canvas.”

Staying in Takoma Park was particularly essential for his restaurant. “I chose Takoma Park because I found that this is the only place, I would risk this venture knowing that my shortcomings would be overlooked,” he said. “The people are more curious here, more warm and more appreciative in most cases.”

Despite fighting through a global pandemic just over a year after opening, Joof remains confident that his restaurant is filling a special desire for the area by offering high-quality dishes from a region he’s passionate about: “There’s something so gratifying about having an idea, conceptualizing it, bringing it to fruition, watching it germinate and having someone come in from as far as Pennsylvania, saying ‘I’ve read about your restaurant’ and they sit down and dine and you can see satisfaction on their faces. That’s a drug you can’t find anywhere; it’s something you create.” To check out Mansa Kunda’s menu, visit mansakunda.com.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR EMERGENCIES AND/OR SERVICES

For any storm-related emergencies, to include any injury, tree into a structure, or downed power lines that could still be electrified, call 911.

To report trees down in the roadway blocking traffic, call the Takoma Park Police Department at the non-emergency number, 301-270-1100.

For power outages and to check estimated restoration times, call Pepco at 1-877-737-2662 or visit their power outage webpage at <https://www.pepco.com/Outages/CheckOutageStatus>

To report downed branches and other debris in the public right of way - roadways or sidewalks - contact Takoma Park Public Works at publicworks@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7633.

For issues with cable lines or internet, call your service provider.



In Partnership

Covid-19 Testing

- ✓ Walk-ins are welcome
- ✓ No appointment necessary

What You Need To Know

- ✓ Our clinics provide nasal swab tests. You take the sample yourself. The tests are PCR tests. Results are ready in 1-2 days.
- ✓ We do not require a government ID or a doctor’s order.
- ✓ Testing is free. If you have insurance, we will ask for the information, but there are no co-pays or deductibles.
- ✓ We test people of all ages. If you bring young children, we may ask you to help them get tested.

Montgomery County website:
<https://bit.ly/3fXHF46>

Testing will be held on:
Wednesdays

February 2, 9, 16 and 23
From 9 am - 6 pm

Location:
Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Ave
Takoma Park, MD 20912

takomaparkmd.gov

We offer testing to anyone who lives, works, or regularly visits Montgomery County

CITY CAREERS

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

- **Childcare Director** to lead Morning Addition & Afternoon Addition at the Community Center and Before and After the Bell at the Rec Center
- **Senior Accounting Assistant** to provide support to the Finance Department, in the areas of accounts receivable, accounts payable, and payroll
- **Contractual Instructors** to teach a variety of classes for the Recreation Department which may be held virtually, in person at the Community Center, Rec Center, or outdoors at area parks

Applications, and details about these and other open positions can be found at takomaparkmd.gov/careers. The City of Takoma Park is proud



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

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CITY RESIDENTS

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



COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

City of Takoma Park's 12th Annual Mid-Winter Play Day

Organized by the nonprofit Let's Play America assisted by the TP Recreation Department
Sunday, February 13, 1 – 4 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue

Everyone deserves to play, people of all abilities, ages, and backgrounds. This indoor/outdoor event will have activities inside and out. When inside, all attendees and volunteers will wear masks. Performers in the Auditorium will include the Takoma Park Community Band, the Chicken Lady, a comedy half hour, Dance Exchange, and Simon Says with Congressman Raskin. Outside activities will include double dutch, floor hockey, hula hooping, hopscotch, corn hole, and four square. Attendees will be able to enjoy these inside activities: dress-up, balloon game, decorate a cookie, board games, face painting, playing with boxes, playing with play dough, recreation room games, yoga heights (mini yoga sessions), and giant checkers, chess, and connect four. Free refreshments will be provided by the Co-op, Giant Food, Target, and Starbucks. Volunteers may email Pat theplaylady@gmail.com or text her at 301-928-9962. Later this month, teen volunteers will be able to sign-up on the Montgomery County Volunteer website. Teens will volunteer from 12 – 5 p.m. www.letsplayamerica.org

What's so wrong about English Ivy and other Invasive Plant Species?

Tuesday, March 1, 12 – 1:30 pm
Virtual

During National Invasive Species Awareness Week, join Climate Action Coffee and the City of Takoma Park for a free lunch and learn panel discussion and Q & A on invasive plant species, featuring speakers Corinne Stephens, Sara Tangren, Jesse Buff, and Lily Fountain, who will provide an overview of invasive plant species in our region, why we should care about them, how to identify them, what you can do to remove them, and what is being done in Maryland at the legislative level to curb their spread. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/252041842937>

Takoma Park Youth Council Winter Clothes Drive

Through March 6

The Takoma Park Youth Council is collecting new and gently used coats, gloves, hats, sweaters, and other warm clothes. Items can be dropped off when facilities are open at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, or the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue. The clothing collected will be donated to Adventist Community Services, which will make the items available at their free thrift shop at 501 Sligo Avenue, Silver Spring.

Meeting of the Minds

Montgomery Parks/MNCPPC
Saturday, February 26, 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Virtual

We celebrate the paralleled legacies and experience of our Maryland Black History titans, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, and Reverend Josiah Henson. Join the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historic Park, Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, and the Josiah Henson Museum and Park for a virtual conversation by first-person re-enactors about the lives of these leaders. All born in southern Maryland, there individuals have shaped and impacted the course of history while displaying bravery that continues to inspire generations. After the discussion, there will be a 15-minute Q/A segment. Appropriate for ages 6 and up. Registrants will receive an email with log-in details just prior to the presentation. Registration is required per connection. Advanced online registration is required by 5 p.m. February 25. No onsite registration is available. montgomeryparks.org/events/meeting-of-the-minds

Historic Takoma Reading Room

Sundays (first and third)
7328 Carroll Avenue

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

Docs In Progress

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



Maryland Homeowners Assistance Fund

Get Help Now!

- To connect to Housing Counseling & Legal Services call 1-877-462-7555
- View participating Housing Counseling & Legal Services, visit: <https://bit.ly/33Y6N85>
- Need help applying or using the portal? Call 1-833-676-0119
Mon - Fri from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
and Sat 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



takomaparkmd.gov