



Takoma Park News



July 2022

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 61, No. 7 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

IMPORTANT DATES

City Offices & Facilities Closed

Independence Day
Sun., July 3 – Mon., July 4

Trash/Recycling Collection

Summer Collection Hours:

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

Early Voting Gubernatorial Primary Election

Thurs., July 7 through
Thurs., July 14

Gubernatorial Primary Election Day

Tues., July 19

Nominating Caucus for City of Takoma Park Election

Tues., September 13

City Council Summer Recess

August 3 – September 7

takomaparkmd.gov

Check our website
frequently for updates.

Takoma Park Rolls Out Big Bike Rack Install of 2022

By Sean Gossard

As part of Takoma Park's ongoing initiative to increase transportation accessibility to the city's many bike riders, the Housing and Community Development and Public Works departments are installing 52 new bike racks around the city. The installations—which were set to begin at the end of June—will be rolled out at the City's parks and businesses over the summer. There will be more than double the number of bike racks that are currently available.

"The City Council allocated funds for bike infrastructure around Takoma Park and one of the resources that came up in our staff research was a recent study from the League of American Bicyclists, which did a nationally representative survey identifying the primary barriers of people riding bikes," said Takoma Park City Planner Alex Freedman. "The No. 1 issue identified by Black participants and No. 2 issue identified by Latinx participants, behind fully protected bike lanes, was a safe place to lock up bikes. Bike racks felt like an option that was high



Existing bike racks outside the Takoma Park Maryland Library

impact, low cost and easy to install."

The City held community roundtable sessions with local bike riders over Zoom and scouted spots all over Takoma Park with a

priority on parks and businesses and using public right-of-ways for most of the instal-

BIKE RACK □ Page 4



CityTV Wins Hometown Media Award

By Sean Gossard

Takoma Park's CityTV—its local government access channel—was named a 2022 Hometown Media Award recipient by the Alliance for Community Media (ACM) Foundation.

CityTV won the Overall Excellence in Governmental Programming award, which honors all the programming of the station, not just one show. It is the fourth time CityTV has won the Overall Excellence award.

"The Hometown Media Awards celebrate both the excellence of work and the diversity of media that appears on community channels being produced around the coun-

try," said Mike Wassenaar, President and CEO of Alliance for Community Media. "The ACM Foundation is proud of their achievement and of how they represent their communities in their work."

ACM works to promote civic engagement through community media. The foundation notes on its website, "for democracy to flourish, people must be active participants in their government, educated to think critically and free to express themselves."

Nearly one thousand entries are submitted each year for the awards, which honor programs that address community needs, develop diverse community involvement, challenge conventional commercial television formats, and move viewers to experi-

ence television differently, according to the press release.

"We've entered these awards about 12 times in the last 20-plus years because they are the greatest representation of the type of station we are," said Alvaro C. Calabia, TV Production Manager for the City of Takoma Park, in a press release. "We cover the local politics, local non-profits, residents, all our diversity. Hyperlocal it's called. We love it, and we usually deal with residents doing what they love, arts, sports, activism, solidarity... Every day you meet someone new, and you learn something different. The award is just a way to let us know that we are doing it the right way." According to the press release, the city is in competition for the annual awards with other government stations that have more than twice its budget.

CityTV broadcasts City Council meetings live on cable and via the City's website and social media. The team also provides technical audio and lighting services for Community Center events that are later shown on the City's cable channel (Comcast channel 13, Verizon channel 28, and RCN channels 13 and 1060).

For more, visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-tv or follow Takoma Park City TV on Facebook and YouTube.



Translation on website
www.takomaparkmd.gov

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

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On the DOCKET

Official City Government Meetings

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

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

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

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

RECEIVE WEEKLY AGENDA AND MEETING NOTICE EMAILS

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

- #### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday, July 6, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, July 13, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, July 20, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, July 27, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, August 3, 7:30 p.m. (tentative)

City Council Recess: The City Council will be on recess in August (unless there is a need to meet on August 3). Meetings will resume on Wednesday, September 14.
- #### CITY BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, July 13, 7:30 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

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

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

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

- #### POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, August 15, 7 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND COMMITTEE

Check the city calendar for date, time, and location or Zoom link.

TREE COMMISSION

Wednesday, July 13 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

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

ON MAY 18, 2022

The City Council adopted the FY23 Budget by **Ordinance 2022-16**. **Ordinance 2022-14** was adopted, setting the FY23 tax rates. The rate for real property was set at \$0.5397 per \$100 of assessed valuation. (Councilmembers Kovar and Smith voted against Ordinances 2022-16 and 2022-14.) First reading of the budget ordinances was held on May 11.

Ordinance 2022-15 was approved to adopt the stormwater management budget.

On the same evening, the City Council approved the temporary closure of Anne Street for the Summer Mercado by **Resolution 2022-13**. With the adoption of **Ordinance 2022-18**, the City Council designated the ARPA Multi-Family Housing Rehabilitation Fund as the source of funds for the City's contribution toward the Hillwood Manor Renovation Project.

AT THE MEETING ON MAY 25, 2022

The City Council adopted **Ordinance 2022-19** to authorize a contract for architectural services and contract administration for the Community Center Renovation Project. The contract is with Bignell, Watkins and Hasser Architects for the amount of \$72,550.


By **Resolution 2022-14**, the City Council accepted the final report of the Sustainable Banking and Investments Task Force and supported implementation of a series of policies and actions. The City Manager is to report to Council by September 2022 with a timeline to implement these policies and actions, including evaluating options and potential impacts which may affect the speed and method of implementation. **Resolution 2022-15** indicated approval of a letter of support for Adventist Healthcare's request for modification of the Certificate of Need for the White Oak Medical Center. Adventist Healthcare will be closing the urgent care but will open primary care offices with embedded behavioral health counseling in the medical office building on the former Hospital campus. (Councilmember Smith voted against the resolution.)

ON JUNE 3, 2022

The City Council adopted **Ordinance 2022-20** to award a contract for CityTV channel automation, digital signage, and closed captioning system upgrades. The contract is with Municipal Captioning in the amount of \$79,343. By **Ordinance 2022-21**, the City Council authorized execution of contracts for services related to the audit and preparation of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). The contracts are with the firm of Barbacane Thornton & Co. LLP. The approval is for a three-year term beginning with FY22. There is the option for a one-year extension. The first-year cost for the audit is \$33,315. The first year ACFR cost is \$4,260.

City Election - Tuesday, November 8, 2022

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



Editor's note

English:

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

French:

Recherchez cette icône à côté des articles du bulletin que vous pouvez lire en ligne dans d'autres langues à l'aide de la fonction de traduction disponible sur

le site Web de la ville de Takoma Park. Après avoir cliqué sur le lien de l'article, regardez dans le coin supérieur droit de la page Web à côté de la barre de navigation, puis sélectionnez la langue souhaitée à l'aide du menu déroulant.

Spanish:

Busque este ícono junto a los artículos del boletín que puede leer en línea en otros idiomas usando la función de traducción en el sitio web de la Ciudad de Takoma Park. Después de hacer clic en el enlace del artículo, busque en la esquina superior derecha de la página web junto a la barra de navegación y seleccione el idioma que desee con el cuadro desplegable.

Amharic:

ከታች ያለውን ደህን ክፉ ይፈልጉ የዜና መጽሔቶች አርስዎ ራስዎ ኖቸው በኢሱቸ ቋንቋዎች በመስመር ላይ ማንበብ ይቻላል ትርጉሙን በመጠቀም በ ታኮማ ከተማ ውስጥ ያለውን ባህሪ የፓርክ ድር ጣቢያ. ጠቀ ክፍረግን በኋላ ስጽሑፉ አገኛላል, ይመልከቱ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥግ ላይ ታነባለች የአሰሳ አምሌን ይምረጡና ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልቋይ ሳጥን.



Takoma Park News

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

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

Building COMMUNITY

Thinking About Running for Office?

Consider leading and serving your community by running for office

Requirements for Candidacy

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

- a registered Maryland voter and a resident of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland;
- at least 18 years of age by the date of the election; and
- a resident of the City of Takoma Park for at least six months immediately preceding the election. If running to represent a ward as a City Councilmember, you must be a resident of the ward for at least six months immediately preceding the election.

Before soliciting any contributions or making expenditures for your campaign, register with the City Clerk. In addition to the requirements above, you will be asked to provide your name, ad-

dress, date of birth, contact information, and the name of the position you seek. Candidate registration for the 2022 election began on June 13. *There is not a requirement to register before the Nominating Caucus unless you are accepting contributions, making campaign expenditures, or otherwise actively campaigning.*

On the campaign finance registration form, you will also be asked to certify that you will comply with all requirements of the Takoma Park Charter and Code applicable to the election process in Takoma Park, including Chapter 5.12 Fair Election Practices and Chapter 3.04 Ethics, and that you will file all required campaign finance reports and financial disclosure requirements for candidates.

Salary and Benefits of Mayor and Councilmembers

Beginning with the City Council elected in November 2022, the mayor will receive an annual salary of \$32,000. Each city coun-

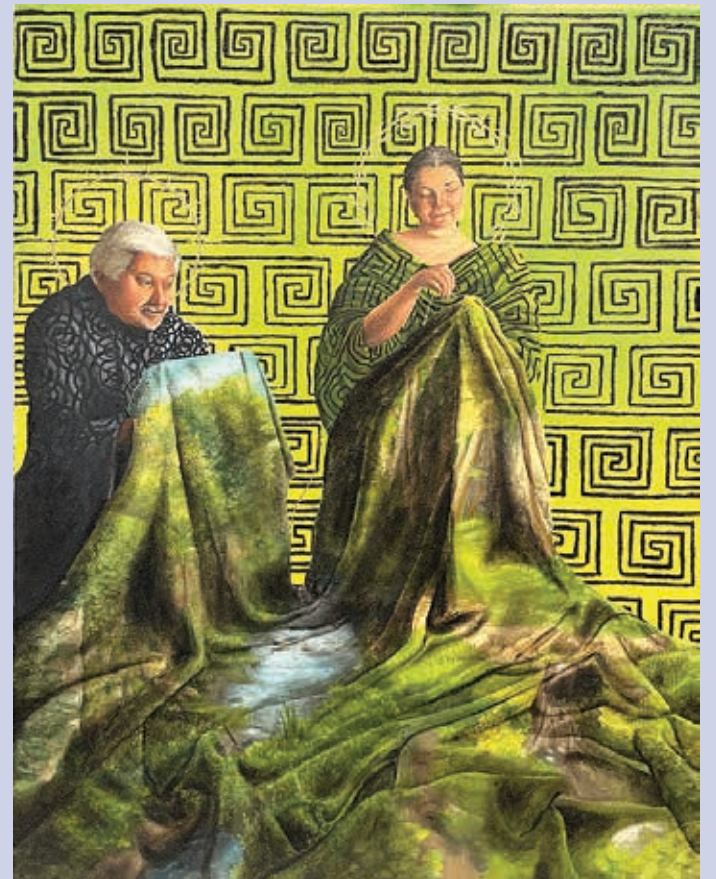
cilmember will receive a salary of \$24,000 per year.

Elected officials are eligible to receive health insurance benefits equivalent to those of full-time City employees.

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

Anyone with questions or who would like additional information should contact Jessie Carpenter, jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267. Additional information is also available at www.takomaparkmd.gov.

Translation on website
www.takomaparkmd.gov



Behind the Curtain by Erin Malone

Local Students Among Runners Up in Congressional Art Competition

Three of the runners up in the 2022 Congressional Art Competition were former students in the Drawing and Watercolor class for middle schoolers sponsored by the Takoma Park Recreation Department and taught by Katie Dell Kaufman. Congratulations to Anthony Bonilla, Erin Malone, and Ella Spirtas on being among this year's runners up! After taking the class, all three went on to attend the Visual Art Center at Einstein High School.

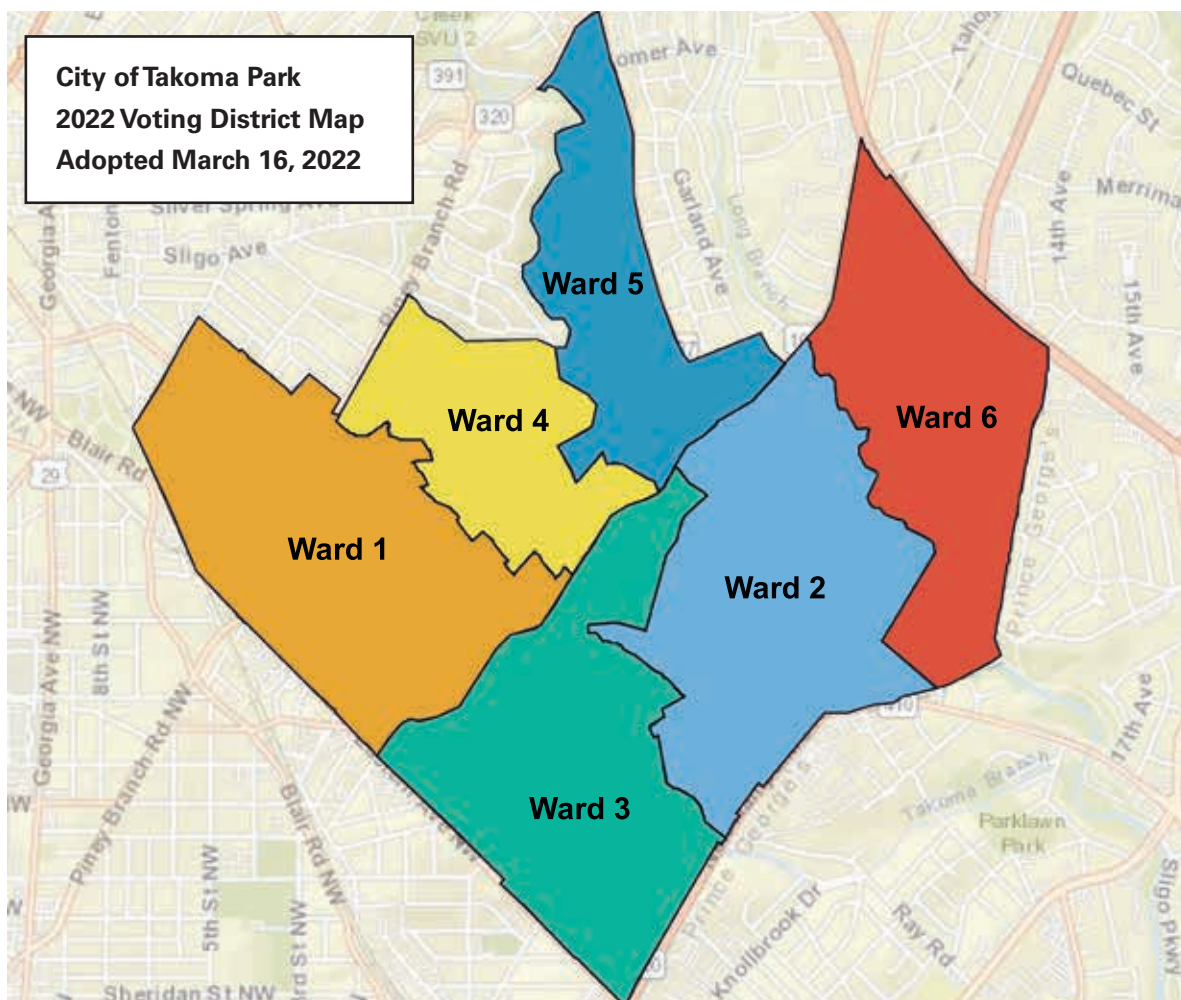
Congressman Jamie Raskin (MD-08) recognized Bonilla, Malone, and Spirtas along with 22 other whose artwork he will display in his Capitol Hill and Rockville offices. "I salute the 25 second-place honorees for their dazzling contributions and thank all the student participants for sharing their tremendous artistic vision with our community," Raskin said in a May 16 press release. "I encourage everyone to check out the highly impres-

ART COMPETITION □ Page 4



Sad Jester by Anthony Bonilla

City of Takoma Park 2022 Voting District Map Adopted March 16, 2022



How to Get Your Name on the November City Election Ballot Nominating Caucus on Tuesday, September 13, 7:30 p.m.

The Nominating Caucus is a meeting of Takoma Park voters to accept nominations for the office of mayor and city councilmember. Nominations of candidates for Mayor may be made on motion by any qualified voter of the City, and if such nomination is seconded by a qualified voter of the City, the person so nominated shall be considered a candidate. Nomination of each candidate for Councilmember shall be made on motion of any qualified voter of their ward, and if such nomination is seconded by a qualified voter of their ward, the person so nominated shall be considered a candidate. Candidates may nominate themselves or second their nominations. Any nominated candidate may decline a nomination during the nomination meeting. A person may only accept nomination for one office.

The name of each person nominated will be placed on the ballot for the November 8 City Election unless the nominated person files a declination with the City Clerk within three days after the nomination or fails to file a timely candidate's financial disclosure statement as required by the City of Takoma Park Public Ethics Ordinance.

Takoma Park Issues New Sign Ordinance

By Sean Gossard

Takoma Park has updated its sign ordinance to clarify how private signs and advertisements should be placed around the city. The goal is to balance freedom of expression while also reducing litter and clutter around the community. The new ordinance went into effect on July 1, 2022.

In part, the ordinance details acceptable placement of signs and advertisements on public property and time limits on signs. Some restrictions include that private signs can be no bigger than 26 inches in any dimension (i.e., length or width); and that



no sign may be posted by using glue or any adhesives other than removable tape, tacks, or staples.

All signs also must have the date they were posted on them and the name of the sponsor who authorized their placement. Signs must be removed 14 days from the date of posting or after the stated date of the advertised event, whichever occurs first, according to the ordinance.

The ordinance also limits sign placement around the city, stating: “No person shall attach, place, paste or otherwise affix any sign, advertisement or other matter on any lamppost, lantern, bench, public trash re-

ceptacle, live tree or the Old Town Clock.” Signs or advertisements affixed to any of those will be immediately removed and considered a Class B offense.

The ordinance also goes into public sign placement in the city, including that they “shall be kept to a minimum number necessary to ensure the public safety and to communicate needed information” and “shall be of a consistent size and style.” All obsolete, unauthorized, and redundant signs will be removed.



Call for Youth Council Applications

The City Council is now seeking applicants for the 2022-2023 Takoma Park Youth Council. The 11-member Youth Council is open to youth in grades 7–12. Complete information and the application form are now available at www.takomaparkmd.gov. Please apply by July 15.

BIKE RACK

■ From page 1

lations. However, some areas, like Takoma-Langley Crossroads and the shops on Maple Avenue, needed the agreement of private property owners to add bike racks—at no cost to them—on their property.

“Although there are very car dependent areas of town, there’s a huge population of residents who are less likely to own a car,” said Freedman. “It was like a chicken and egg scenario where the business owners were saying they weren’t seeing people on bikes, but bicyclists had no place to lock up their bikes.”

As for the style of the bike racks, the City chose to go with a simple inverted U shape, largely recognized as the standard for bike racks. “It’s clean, it’s simple and it’s

really consistently among the best shapes for bike racks,” said Freedman. “Other options we looked at were either wildly expensive—5 to 10 times the price—or they aren’t as useful for locking up bikes.” The racks will come in either black or blue, depending on where they are placed. For areas that are more space constrained, a hitch-style bike rack will be used.

For Freedman, accessibility is incredibly important, and more bike racks help with that. “One of the reasons to improve bike access around town is that it gives residents choice in how they get around, whether it’s day-to-day tasks or recreation or a mix of both. Better bike infrastructure improves the equity of our local transportation systems and increases quality of life across the board.”

As for the future of bike infra-

structure in Takoma Park, the City plans to work with Montgomery County to create a unified set of signage and markings for city and county bike lanes to make it easier for riders to get around.

Also, through grants from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the City will start two projects: preliminary designs for Section D of the New Ave Bikeway, which extends the existing designs for bike lanes on New Hampshire Avenue from Holton Lane to Poplar Avenue, to link the New Ave Bikeway to DC’s bike network; and upgrade a portion of the Metropolitan Branch Trail that Takoma Park manages.

For more on Takoma Park’s plans, visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/planning-and-community-development/bikeways-program.



Art by Ella Spirtas

ART COMPETITION

■ From page 3

sive student artwork in my Eighth District Virtual Gallery.” Visit the virtual gallery at repraskin.medium.com/rep-raskins-2022-congressional-art-competition-virtual-gallery-3a0773d39e30.

Each spring, the Congressional Institute, a nonprofit organization

dedicated to helping Members of Congress better serve their constituents, sponsors a nationwide high school visual art competition to recognize and encourage artistic talent in the nation and in each congressional district. Winners are recognized both in their district and at an annual awards ceremony in Washington, DC.

PLAYGROUND GUIDE & SCAVENGER HUNT

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Since 2009 Play Days and other FREE play events have happened in Takoma Park. The play committee, briefly called Takoma Plays, became the nonprofit Let's Play America in 2014 and have held over 130+ play events.

The ARTS

Unsung Heroes Art Exhibition Celebrates City Employees

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

Local artist Renee Lachman will be honoring City employees in a new series of paintings and charcoal drawings, including sanitation workers, gardeners, crossing guards, and library staff. A free opening reception for the *Unsung Heroes* exhibition will be held on July 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center at 7500 Maple Avenue.

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

Lachman said books from library staff "provided a lifeline during the pandemic" while crossing guards "cheerfully help our children, parents, and residents cross busy streets safely." Gardeners maintain



Artwork by Renee Lachman featuring Library Shelver Wanda Hsiung, a sanitation crew, and Crossing Guard Harriet Saxton-Alston



seven acres of garden plots along with planting, weeding, and cutting grass on city property.

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


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

Lachman has lived in Takoma Park for more than 25 years. She received an-

other City public art grant to paint mural panels that will be installed at the Hillwood Manor Community Garden. She also was the City's first recycling artist in residence in 2012 at the Public Works Department where she created assemblages with recycled materials.

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



 **Translation on website**
www.takomaparkmd.gov

Poets Sought for Poetry Readings and Poet Laureate Position

Poets are being sought to apply for future poetry readings in the *Takoma Park Arts* cultural series as well as a local poet to serve as the next Takoma Park Poet Laureate.

Poetry readings are held on Thursday evenings approximately eight times per year in the Takoma Park Community Center auditorium. A reading usually includes three or four poets who each read their work for 10–15 minutes. Poets don't have to be Takoma Park residents.

Poets must submit their own original poems for consideration in one of three themed categories or an open category. The online application form is available at <https://bit.ly/3PHo20I>, and the deadline is July 17.

The Takoma Park Poet Laureate program honors the achievements of a local poet who serves as the City's ambassador in promoting public appreciation



of poetry and literature. Applicants must live or work in Takoma Park.

The Poet Laureate frequently serves as the emcee at *Takoma Park Arts* poetry readings and organizes a public poetry project each year. The Poet Laureate serves a three-year term and is paid a \$2,000 annual honorarium. The online application form is available at <https://bit.ly/3PQgrx8>, and the deadline is July 17.

Arts and Humanities Committee Seeks New Members

Local residents are being sought to serve on the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Committee. The volunteer committee assists City staff in organizing arts events and public art projects, as well as advising the City Council on matters relating to the arts and humanities. Details about the City's arts programs and the committee's last annual report can be found at takomaparkmd.gov/arts.

Committee members receive a \$40 stipend for each meeting they attend. The application form can be found at takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees, and there is a rolling deadline.



RECREATION

YOUTH

CAMPS

Dance Camp
Choreography, ballet, modern dance and hip-hop are geared to allow youth the opportunity to enhance their talents by mastering skills and techniques taught during the session. Children will learn basic dance skills, rhythm, musicality, and improvisation. Instructors will focus on building self-esteem and personal creativity, which will allow them to gain confidence in the craft of dance. Fun and excitement will be implemented into each routine. At the end of each session, campers will be given the opportunity to highlight and showcase what they have learned with a performance. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of camp. *Before and After Care are also available for an additional fee. *
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
6-15 years
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Two Week Session: August 1-12
Resident: \$295 / Non-resident: \$325
One Week Session: August 15-19
Resident: \$175 / Non-resident: \$195



New Ave Adventure Camp
Join us for another exciting, themed summer of New Ave Adventure Camp! Each week will have a theme, and activities will include, crafts, sports, indoor and outdoor activities, special presenters, and much more! You can register for just one week or all eight.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
6–12 years
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
8, One Week Sessions
Through August 19
\$140 per week
*Week of July 5-July 8: \$110

SPECIAL EVENTS

4th of July Parade

This year marks the return of Takoma Park’s much-loved annual Parade - a truly singular special event. The parade will be led by our Grand Marshal, Takoma Park City Manager Mr. Jamal Fox. This year’s celebration theme is “Takoma Park: Together Again.” The parade will begin at 10 a.m. from the intersection of Carroll and Ethan Allen Avenue, travel south on Carroll Avenue, turn right on Maple Avenue, and end at Ritchie Avenue. Visit takomapark4th.org to get additional information.
All Ages
Monday, July 4
starting at 10 a.m.

4th of July Evening Celebration

Join us in closing out a great day of 4th of July celebrations with a Street Party on Maple Avenue featuring bands, games, kids activities, food and drink, and a beer garden. The Street Party will take place on Maple Avenue in front of the Community Center from 5:30–9 p.m. Visit takomapark4th.org to get additional information and to join us!
Maple Avenue
All Ages
Monday July 4
Starting at 5:30 p.m.

TEENS

CAMPS

Just Teens Summer Camp
There’s still time! This July join Takoma Park Recreation for Just Teens Camp where we enjoy four weeks of fun activities and new adventures! During our time, we will celebrate other cultures around the globe while taking the time to appreciate our own backyard; take part in some healthy competition like we are on a game show; and face our fears through fun challenges! Paperwork will need to be completed before the first day of camp. Bring a bag lunch, snack, and labeled water bottle. For more information on Just Teens Camp, please contact Haven Rhodd at havenr@takomaparkmd.gov.
Takoma Park Community Center

Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades: 6–12
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
July 4-29
Resident: \$140 / Non-Resident: \$160

Visual Arts Camp
Campers will have fun and express themselves with color, shape, and design. They’ll have an opportunity to sharpen their drawing skills, explore new media, and exercise their imagination with these inspiring art projects. Each week will have a different theme. Campers will be drawing in graphite, charcoal, pastels and/or oil pastels as well as watercolor painting, pen and ink, and/or mixed media. Each assignment is inspired by periods of art history. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
11–15 years
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Still Life/Interior: 7/11–7/15
Land, Sea, and Cityscape: 7/18–7/22
Resident: \$295 / Non-resident: \$325
Before Care: 7–9 a.m.
Resident: \$40 / Non-resident: \$50
After Care: 3–6 p.m.
Resident: \$60 / Non-resident: \$70

MARTIAL ARTS

Kung Fu for Kids
Bungo Fu is the Jamaican style of Kung Fu. Come learn meditation, self-defense, improved flexibility, and self-awareness. This ancient form of self-defense provides physical and mental exercise which could help the students defend themselves by strengthening hand and eye coordination as well as assist with the maintaining of balance. Students will gain physical fitness, mental, and spiritual strength. There is a \$70 non-refundable uniform fee payable to the instructor. Instructor: Master Robert Thompson
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
4–17 years
Saturdays, 1:30–2:30 p.m.
July 9-August 27
Resident: \$155 / Non-resident: \$175
Uniform Fee: \$70

ADULT

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Writing Life Stories
Do you want to share important life experiences through your writing? Our stories are part of what makes us human. Whether you are a lifelong writer or a beginner, this class is for you. I will help you to jump-start your memories, organize your ideas and edit your work. We use the book *Writing the Memoir* by Judith Barrington. Bring a notebook to each class and be ready to have fun! Instructor: Barbara Rosenblatt
Virtual
18 & up
Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.
July 6-August 24
Resident: \$90 / Non-resident: \$100

FITNESS

Afrobeat/Afro-Ndombolo Dance Class
A contemporary Afro Dance company specializing in African dancing, Zuri Sana’a DanXercise’s mission is to bring you joy and memories through the art of dance. Zuri Sana’a DanXercise combines hip hop, salsa,

EXTENDED CARE SCHOOL YEAR 2022–2023

Registration is open!

The Recreation Department is pleased to again offer both before care and after care at both of our facilities. Morning and Afternoon Addition are held at the Takoma Park Community Center (7500 Maple Avenue), and Before and After the Bell is held at the Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Avenue). Our emphasis is on providing fun, leisure and recreation programs before and after the school day, while providing a safe environment for children grades K–5. Participants will engage in daily indoor/outdoor group activities and holiday-based events. Children will have time for free play, homework assignments, breakfast (not provided), or simply prepare for their upcoming day in before care. Each afternoon kids will receive a snack, have time to complete

homework, and enjoy arts and crafts, sports, board games, plays, free play and more!
Programs operate when MCPS schools are in session.

- **Before Care:** \$1,500 / Non-resident: \$1,800
 - Hours: 7–9 a.m.
- **After Care:** \$2,300 / Non-resident: \$2,800
 - Hours: 3:30–6:30 p.m.
- **Bundle Discount:** Resident: \$3,230 / Non-resident: \$3,910
Participants who register for both before care and after care at the same facility in one transaction will receive a discount.
- There is a 20% deposit due at the time of registration. The remaining balance will be divided into monthly payments beginning Oct 1.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Before The Bell & After The Bell
Transportation will not be provided through TPRD, Please contact MCPS Transportation (301-840-8130) to change your bus route to (New Hampshire Towers), and we will meet them at the bus stop.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Morning Addition & Afternoon Addition
Staff will escort participants to Takoma Park Elementary School and Piney Branch Elementary School.

RECREATION

RECREATION

■ From page 6

dancehall, Nd contemporary and African dance moves within our choreography to create a memorable workout experience. Our moves are feasible and suitable for all ages. Participants will be able to shred calories and learn fun choreography all in one class. Instructor: Khady N'Diaye

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
16 & Up
Thursdays, 7–8 p.m.
Summer: July 7-August 25
Resident: \$50 / Non-resident: \$60



Foundation Fitness II

Foundation Fitness II is a fitness program for participants who have or are currently involved in a fitness regimen. The program builds on the concepts of Foundation Fitness I, which utilizes various movements from numerous disciplines while utilizing minimal resistance and multiple repetitions. This class adds more resistance and incorporates floor or mat exercises using hand weights; bands/tubes; abdominal rollers and exercise balls. All equipment will need to be provided by the participants. Foundation Fitness II will enhance tone/strengthen all major muscle groups as well as increase stamina and flexibility. Instructor: Michael Williams
Virtual
18 & Up
Saturdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
July 2-August 27
Resident: \$5 / Non-resident: \$15

Zumba

Zumba is a fitness program that combines Latin and international music with dance moves. Zumba routines incorporate interval training, alternating fast and slow rhythms

to help improve cardiovascular fitness. No equipment needed for this class. Instructor: Charonne Butler
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
16 & up
Saturdays, 10:15–11:15 a.m.
July 16-September 3
Resident: \$60 / Non-Resident: \$70
Drop-In: \$15

MARTIAL ARTS



Karate Self Defense

Are you looking for a new form of exercise? If so, try Karate Self Defense. Through the practice of karate, one can gain self-confidence, leadership experience, self-defense skills, focus, discipline, improved physical fitness and more. Instructor: Christian Brown
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Back Room
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
16 & up
Mondays & Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.
Ongoing
Free with Recreation Center Membership

SPORTS

After Hours Basketball

This program will provide a drop-in service for teens and young adults ages 16–24. The Recreation Department is partnering with



the Takoma Park Police Department to offer basketball Tuesday and Thursday nights over the course of the summer. We are looking to provide safe but fun activities for the young adults in our community as well as build the relationship between the community and the Takoma Park Police Department. Instructor: Greg Harris
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
16–24 years
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9–11 p.m.
July 5-August 18
Free

55+

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 Community Center
Dance Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 & up
Tuesdays, July 5-August 23
Wednesdays, July 6-August 24
10:30–11:30 a.m.
\$5



Zumba Gold

You can attend the class in-person or via Zoom on the same day at the same time. Choose the option that is best for you. Registration is required for in-person and online via zoom. Designed for active older adults who are looking for a modified Zumba class that recreates the original moves they love at a lower intensity, the class introduces easy-to-follow Zumba choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination. Instructor: Yesika Flores
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Room (in-person) or Zoom (virtual)
7500 Maple Avenue
55 & up
Fridays, 10–11 a.m.
July 1-August 19
\$5



FITNESS

Enhance Your Fitness

A great total body workout using low-impact aerobics 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, 8:45–9:45 a.m.
July 5-August 23
\$5



Instructor Intro: Meet Alessandra Flores

The Recreation Department would like to highlight one of our amazing instructors, Alessandra Flores! Alessandra is CEO and Founder of Sol Realm Yoga and taught our Girls Empowerment Yoga class for teens this past spring. She has a recreation background as a former recreation specialist with the Montgomery County Recreation Department and recently pursued her passion for interior design while focusing on creating a variety of yoga classes for youth. Please take a few moments to get to know Ms. Alessandra Flores.

Where does your passion for yoga come from?

I found my passion for yoga in a hopeless place. I found and understood the meaning of yoga during the pandemic when everything felt dark, and the world felt like it suddenly stopped. I discovered a new meaning of self-confidence, awareness, and self-love. As a certified Teen Life Coach and Youth Advocate, I now use yoga to help empower teens with self-confidence, increase mental awareness, and encourage ambition and goal setting.



Alessandra Flores

Why is it important for young people to have access to yoga?

Many consider yoga to be a fitness program that requires you to be flexible and able to bend in difficult positions. Yoga is beyond flexibility! Yoga and other wellness programs are important for youth because they help develop body awareness, manage stress through breathing,

meditation, and movement, build concentration, increase confidence and positive self-image, and allow youth to feel a part of a group.

What do you hope participants will take away from your class?

I hope participants learn to be patient with themselves, remembering to breathe in through their bellies and out

through their noses or mouths, relaxing their shoulders with every breath. Breathing through certain situations can change the outcome!

How do you know when you've had a successful class?

Some determine success based on the number of participants you receive in your program. Others determine success based on the emotional, physical, and mental changes you begin to see with your students. When parents and teachers approach me with how they've noticed a positive change in their student, that lets me know I am reaching them, and they trust me. Ultimately my goal is for all my participants to feel better about themselves in whatever capacity they came to the program with.

What other hobbies or interests do you have?

I love reading, playing and coaching basketball, hiking, and gardening.



Translation on website
www.takomaparkmd.gov



LIBRARY



Hours and Calendar

Library hours are:

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

Computer Center hours

are (beginning July 5):
Monday-Thursday
10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday-Sunday
12 – 6 p.m.

Holiday Closings: The Library and Computer Center will be closed on Sunday, July 3 and Monday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

- To protect our most vulnerable patrons and staff, the library strongly encourages everyone to continue to wear a mask while in the library, even though masks are optional in City facilities now.
- Books-to-Go is continuing, and the book return bin is still open at all times. Please note if you are picking up a Books-to-Go order, please call the library's main number, 301-891-7259.
- The library continues to distribute COVID-19 rapid test kits and N-95 masks. Ask at the front desk or in the Computer Center.

Regular Programs

We're continuing to offer many great library programs – weekly and monthly – via Zoom and in person. To participate on Zoom, go to <https://zoom.us>. Click on "Join a Meeting" and put in the Meeting ID (and meeting password, if any) listed with each program. If you are registered, we will send reminders as well as notices of any changes or cancellations. Register at www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryprograms.



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



Center auditorium in July. In August, if there is rain, Circle Time will be canceled. Masking is strongly encouraged for all indoor activities.

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

Sponsored by Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. **Scribbler's Cabal and Comics Jam** are on hiatus for the summer. Look for these programs in the fall. Older Kids Crafts - Every Sunday afternoon in the rotunda outside the Computer Center, you will find various art and craft supplies to make independent projects. We've been making bracelets, potholders, and knitted chains. Suggested for ages 9 and up. **PROGRAMS:** To keep up with all our programs, go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents.

Events & Special Programs



Kids' Art

Join us for outdoor Spin Art on Sunday, July 24 from 1–3 p.m. in-person on the library's front lawn. Create art using a spinning platform and washable tempera paint. You may get a little messy! We have multiple spin centers, but you may have to wait for your turn! (Rain Plan: Rotunda area of the Community Center).

Get Ready for Kindergarten

We're hosting a themed story time and activities on Sunday, August 14 at 1 p.m. Registration encouraged at tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents.

SummerQuest!

Takoma Park Maryland Library SummerQuest reading program is here all summer long! This year's story: Modern Mythology. In ancient days people told stories of powerful beings in control of natural forces. Zeus and Thor were said to be the lords of thunder; Poseidon oversaw the sea; Loki was the master of trickery and magic. But what beings might oversee modern forces? Satellites and advertising and traffic may have incarnations that assist or trouble us. Find them! SummerQuest is an interactive reading game for all ages from read-to-me to adulthood. Players can pick up a character and game board from the front desk staff. To move through the story, you read a different kind of book for each section of the game board (adventure, poetry, different cultures, etc.). The game begins whenever you pick up the game board and finishes in the Fall. Happy reading!



DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Finding Yourself at the Library

By Jessica Jones

In July, we celebrate Independence Day—the day the Declaration of Independence was signed. It is a document expressing morals, values, and intent (imperfect though the document and its authors and signers are), and while it's not traditionally a super introspective holiday, this seems like a good time to think about our own declarations and intentions, and of course, how the library can facilitate your personal journeys.

The Dewey 150s are the traditional place to go for "psychology" and self-discovery, and we have plenty of great books there for all ages. David Brooks's *The Road to Character* encourages readers to emphasize virtues that "exist at the core of our being." Luvvie Ajayi Jones's *Professional Troublemaker: The Fear-Fighter Manual* is about overcoming imposter syndrome and living more authentically. And this book for teens is especially great: *The Grit Guide For Teens: A Workbook to Help You Build Perseverance, Self-Control & A Growth Mindset* by Dr. Caren Baruch-Feldman. You can also learn a lot from reading about other people's journeys, like Cheryl Strayed's *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Trail*, Tara Westover's *Educated: A Memoir*, or Jonathan Van Ness's *Over The Top: A Raw Journey to Self-Love*.

Perhaps you want to really dig into how you feel about different topics in the greater public discourse. If we're going to call them "identity politics," it makes sense for us to know how we personally identify and interact with those issues. Yusef Salaam's *Better, Not Bitter: Living on Purpose in the Pursuit of Racial Justice* is about understanding issues of race, thinking about how we live our lives around it, and sustainably living anti-racist values. Or, if you want



to know more about how to find body acceptance, Virgie Tovar's *The Self-Love Revolution: Radical Body Positivity for Girls of Color*

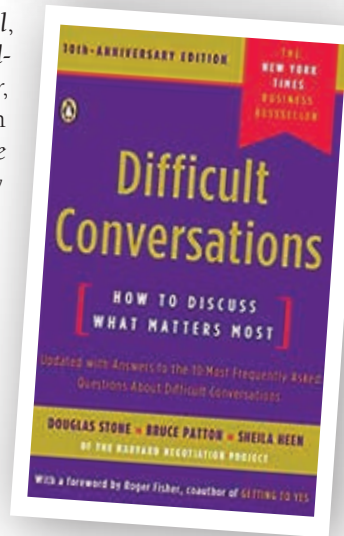
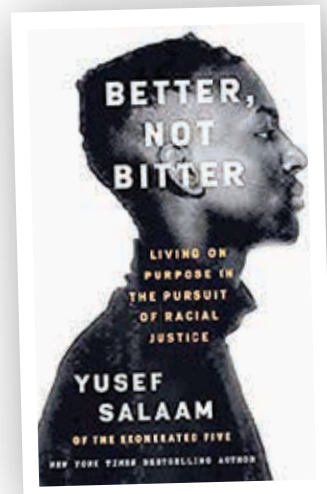
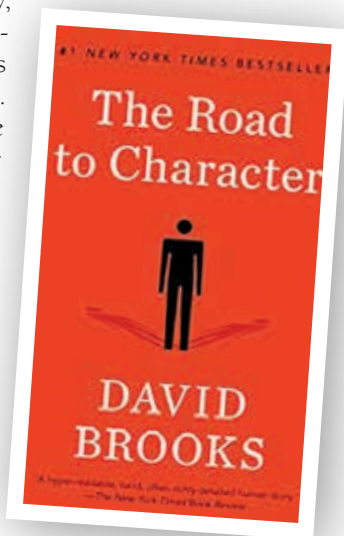
can be valuable for anyone living in a body (most of us, presumably, until Futurama becomes a reality).

More generally, maybe you want to learn how to have more productive conversations about controversial topics. If that's the case, Stone's *Difficult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most* and Safer's *I Love You, But I Hate Your Politics* might be a good place to start preparing for those kinds of talks.

I have cited a lot of books you would find in our nonfiction sections, but did you know that reading fiction can help us understand a lot about ourselves and the people around us? Last year, the *Harvard Business Review* published an article called "The Case for Reading Fiction" that states, "Research, however, suggests that reading fiction may provide far more important benefits than nonfiction. For example, reading fiction predicts increased social acuity and a sharper ability to comprehend other people's motivations."

When you connect better to the world around you, it also helps to understand the ways in which you interact with it.

To that end, I say don't sleep on fiction. It is valuable for so many



Listen to This!

By Rebecca Brown

This month's podcast review is really seven reviews in one! Coffee Break Languages is a collection of language-learning podcasts: French, Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin), Italian, German, Swedish, and English. Spanish and French podcaster Mark Pentleton is a former teacher of Romance Languages. This series has been going on since 2006, and the original episodes are online, so beginners should just



start at season one, lesson one, and proceed from there. Go to www.coffeebreaklanguages.com or wherever you get your podcasts.

SSL Hours Available This Summer

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

Reseña: *Hello, Friend / Hola, Amigo*, escrito por 123 Andrés, ilustrado por Sara Palacios

Hello, Friend / Hola, Amigo presenta las letras en inglés y en español de una de las canciones del grupo 123 Andrés. Es un libro de cartón que invita a todos, pero sobre todo a los más pequeños, a hacer amistad con personas que vengan de otros países o hablen otros idiomas.

Al tratarse de la letra de una canción, este libro tiene muy buen ritmo al leerse en voz alta. “Aunque hables árabe o italiano, al final somos seres humanos. Aunque hables quechua o mandarín, un mismo idioma es sonreír”, afirma el libro.

123 Andrés es un dúo musical compuesto por Andrés y Christina. *Arriba Abajo*, unos de sus álbumes, fue nombrado como una grabación notable para niños (Notable Children's Recording, en inglés) por la Asociación de Bibliotecas de los Estados Unidos y ganó un Latin GRAMMY como Mejor Álbum de Música Latina para Niños.

El libro funciona muy bien



tanto en inglés como en español. Se puede leer una sola versión o ambas al mismo tiempo, y se puede entender. Es muy refrescante leer un libro que no sea una traducción exacta de ambos idiomas. Como bien lo expresan los autores en su nota: “Al usar idiomas diferentes podemos crear cuentos y canciones que expresan ideas similares pero con matices distintos”.

Las ilustraciones de Sara Pala-

cios son inclusivas y alegres. Los personajes tienen una variedad de colores de piel, estilos de cabello y atuendos que apuntan a una diversidad de razas, etnias y culturas. Las imágenes cuentan la historia de una niña que toca guitarra y un niño que toca trompeta. Lo que comienza como un dúo de músicos, se va agrandando cuando más niños se unen al grupo, añadiendo sus propios instrumentos. Al final, han formado una gran fiesta.

Hello, Friend / Hola, Amigo es una celebración de la plurinacionalidad y el multilingüismo y, por tanto, un retrato de la ciudad de Takoma Park y del área metropolitana de Washington D.C. Caminando por sus calles, he escuchado inglés, español, amárico, así como otros muchos idiomas y dialectos que no reconozco. Un libro que celebre esta diversidad, sin duda merece estar en nuestros estantes para ser disfrutado por la comunidad.


CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS CALENDAR
Scan the dinosaur to see what's happening!

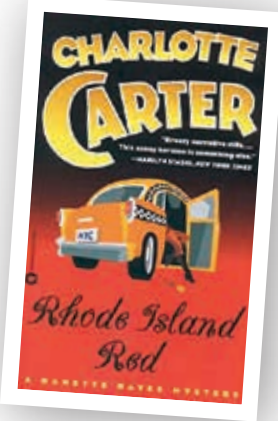


takomapark.info/library

Questions? ¿Preguntas? E-mail Verónica at veronican@takomaparkmd.gov

Friends Book Group Summer Reading

The summer selection for discussion in July is *Rhode Island Red* by Charlotte Carter. We will meet on Wednesday, July 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room of the Community Center. We'll also have a Zoom link for those who want to meet online. For more information, email ftpmlbook-group@gmail.com.



Rhode Island Red introduces us to busker Nanette Hayes, an African American jazz saxophonist. When Nan awakes one morning to find a fellow busker dead on her kitchen floor, the mystery begins. It draws the reluctant Nan to search for a legendary and priceless saxophone that many would kill to possess. Charlotte Carter originally wrote the Nanette Hayes series in the 1990s. *Rhode Island Red* and two other novels from the

series were republished last year. The series is unique for its Black heroine and its depiction of race, class, and sexism.

While *Rhode Island Red* may reflect the 1990s, critics have written that the Nanette Hayes series has the timelessness of other great mystery series and their heroes. Nan is, “as much Marlow as she is the women

who tempt him,” wrote Caitlin Landuyt in *CrimeReads*. “She’s cool under pressure and she always gets her man. Plus, she can belly up to the bar with the best. As a result, these books feel as fresh and new as they do classically rewarding.”

Rhode Island Red is available to borrow from the library and is available on Hoopla as an e-book.

 Translation on website www.takomaparkmd.gov

FINDING YOURSELF

■ From page 8

reasons, not the least of which being its role in understanding our sense of self. In lieu of recommending specific fiction titles, an interesting exercise here could

be to consider the books that have had the most impact on you. Maybe even re-read them and think about what draws you to them (I’m a big fan of re-reading!).

Lest anyone think that’s what I’m doing all summer, rest assured that my TV is still getting

a workout. If you need to talk to anyone about the most recent season of *Stranger Things*, hit me up!



Books-to-Go Continues

We are continuing our Books-to-Go service. Here is what you need to know:

1. Email your request to librarytakomapark@gmail.com (preferred) or phone us at 301-891-7259.
2. In the subject line of your email, include the name on the account you are using and either your birthday (month and day, not year) or the last four digits of your library card.

3. In your message, list the items you want to check out. Include the title, author, and call number for each item requested. Please check our catalog first at <https://takoma.bywatersolutions.com> to be sure that the item is available.
4. Please limit your requests to 10 items per order. If a book is checked out, you may place a hold on it.
5. If you have overdue books, you will not be permitted to check out new ones!

6. We will notify you when your request has been filled. Our reply email will give you information on when you can pick up your request.
7. When you arrive at the library parking lot, call 301-891-7259, and we will bring it out to you.

Note: Requests will be held for one week, and then the items will be checked back in.



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of June 23, 2022, 33 people have died in fires compared to 36 in 2021.

Hot vehicle deaths

As of June 23, 2022, 5 children have died in hot vehicles across the country. Please, when you leave your vehicle make sure you check the back seat, and everyone goes with you. Also, lock it.

Safety Message

It's the law! All fireworks are illegal in Montgomery County. Be Safe! Leave the fireworks to the pros.

Summer Safety Tips: The Grilling Edition

Use of outdoor fuel-based equipment like grills, fire pits, and campfires generally increases during the summer. These types of equipment do present potential fire hazards, but you can minimize associated risks by following some basic safety guidelines:

Make sure your gas grill is working properly. Leaks or breaks are primarily a problem with gas grills. Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year.

Never leave equipment unattended. Make sure to closely monitor food cooking on the grill. Turn the grill off promptly when you're done cooking, and let it cool completely before returning it to its original location.

Keep equipment a safe distance from things that can burn. Place your grill

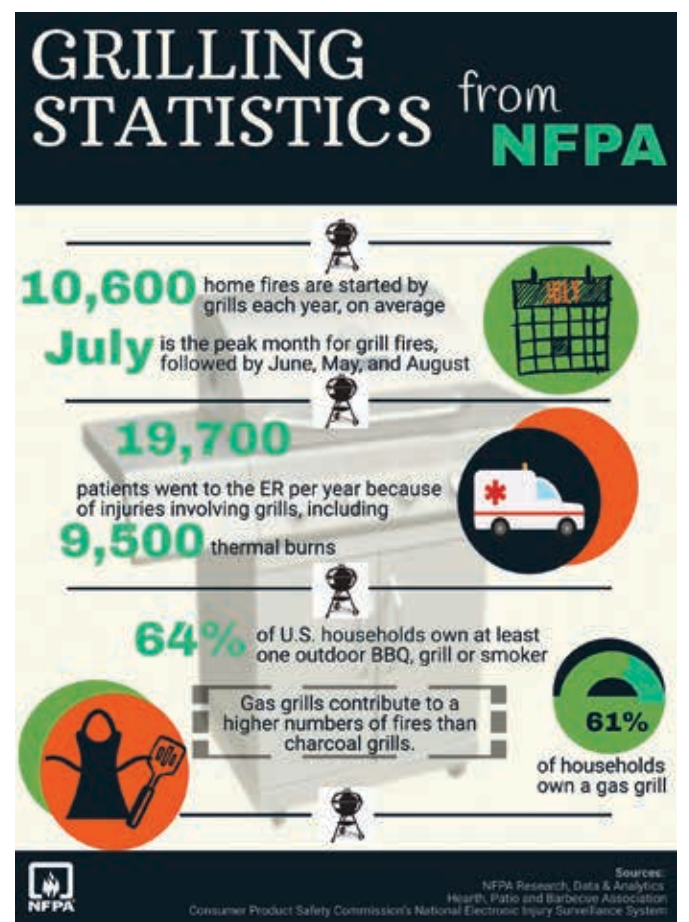
well away (at least three feet) from anything that can burn, including deck railings and overhanging branches; also keep them out from under eaves.

Use fuel and fire starters properly. If you use a starter fluid to ignite charcoals, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire. Never use gasoline or other flammable or combustible liquids on firepits, chimineas, or campfires.

If a fire breaks out, call the fire department. For any type of outdoor fire that can't be quickly and effectively extinguished, call the fire department immediately for assistance.

Source: National Fire Protection Association

For more information, visit www.nfpa.org/grilling.



Passport Services

Passport Services are available by appointment only Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center on the second floor. Appointments are required and can be scheduled by calling 301-891-7100. Passport service hours are subject to change without notice. Whenever possible, office closures will be announced on Facebook, Twitter, and the City's website. Please note the following:

- The City of Takoma Park does not process the DS-82 Renewal Application, which is a mail-in only Application.
- All forms must be written clearly with no mark outs, scratch outs, etc.
- 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.

Walking on the Road Again and Fending Off Woodchucks

By Claudine Schweber, Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee

Walking on the Road

It's summer, and it's such a pleasure to take a morning or early evening walk. However, be prepared and careful. Some folks are out to rob, not take a walk. This question was posted on a listserv a few weeks ago, I am sharing it here with permission:

"With two armed robberies of pedestrians so far, are there any recommendations the police have issued that enhance safety while walking or other information to be safe? For instance, is it best to walk facing traffic? Is it best not to carry a purse at all and put your cell phone, ID, and small amount of cash or one credit card in a pocket? For the past year, I have drastically reduced what I carry in my wallet.... Any additional info?" [signed (name)]

Response: This person is well prepared! Here are some additional recommendations:

- Carry a working flashlight and water.
- Tell others that you are walking and intended amount of time.
- Walk in highly visible, well lighted areas.
- Carry only keys for your home.

If you find yourself in these situations, be prepared to take the appropriate action.

Situation	Response
If you see an individual, a group or a parked vehicle that looks suspicious or causes you concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Keep your distance.Take another route or ask for help.
If an unknown vehicle approaches you	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Immediately change directions.If possible, go to a location where there are other people that can help you.
If you do find yourself being robbed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Avoid being injured by giving the robbers what they want.Call 911 and stay in a safe place (nearby) until police arrive.

Fending Off Woodchucks

The spring and summer storms bring not only damage to homes, property, and persons but also bring woodchucks, who offer quick help with repairs. Woodchucks

tend to arrive after storms or other situations that cause damage to property. They offer to quickly fix the problems with upfront fees.

For example, it starts with trimming a tree. Then maybe a gutter needs fixing, a driveway repairing, or a chimney cleaning. And within weeks, more than \$100,000 is gone. The result is either work started and finished or poorly done with materials that are weak.

These scams are promoted by woodchucks--the term used by police--for people who roam streets after a storm or other problems or just look for work that obviously needs to be done. Do not sign anything without checking references and consulting with your neighbors. Problems? Contact the Takoma Park Police Department at 301-270-1100.

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

Operation Chill!

If a Takoma Park Police officer catches your children in the act this summer, they might just get a “ticket.”

The Takoma Park Police Department is proud to again partner with 7-Eleven in its “Operation Chill” program, which aims to reduce crime and build rapport between kids and law enforcement. “Operation Chill” is a great way of teaching the importance of making good decisions, being kind, and doing the right thing.

School’s out for summer and kids in Takoma Park may actually look forward to their next encounter with the “heat” this summer thanks to 7-Eleven stores’ popular “Operation Chill” program that rewards positive behavior with a very cool treat.

Through “Operation Chill,” Takoma Park Police patrol officers can “ticket” youngsters caught in the act of doing good with Slurpee beverage coupons. Appropriate “offenses” might include helping another person, deterring crime, practicing safety (wearing a helmet during bike riding), participating in a positive activity in the community, or just for having a pleasant conversation with an officer. Each coupon can be redeemed for a small Slurpee drink at participating 7-Eleven stores. The coupons are great for officers who are on patrol in the

community. It’s an icebreaker, a way to encourage dialogue in a non-threatening, non-law enforcement situation.

Since its inception in 1995, “Operation Chill” has grown to include several hundred law enforcement agencies in the United States and Canada each year, and more than twelve million coupons have been distributed to officers on the beat in cities and towns where 7-Eleven does business.

“Operation Chill” was developed by 7-Eleven Inc. to positively reward and encourage good behavior by kids during the hot summer months, when communities may experience increases in loitering, shoplifting and graffiti, and to support law enforcement agencies’ community relations projects. The Takoma Park Police Department will use the “Operation Chill” program to reward youth for their good deeds as well as to enhance their relations with the young people of their city.

So be on your best behavior this summer. Our officers will be patrolling parks, community events, and other areas around the City, looking to hand out these free treats!

Translation on website
www.takomaparkmd.gov



Snapshots from Operation Chill 2021



The Native Plant & Wildlife Corridor: Q&A

Editor’s Note: Many Takoma Park residents are planting native species in their gardens to support birds, bees, butterflies, and other insects. This short Q&A explains why this trend of planting native species is important.

Q: What is the Native Plant & Wildlife Corridor, and why is it needed?

A: Massive numbers of birds and insects are on the decline due to a warming planet. One way to support them is to build a native plant and wildlife corridor. Parks with native trees and native plant gardens in backyards, balconies, churches, schools, and commercial building landscaping, for example, contribute to the wildlife corridor by providing habitat and nourishment for insects and birds. Think of it as a pollinator highway. The Pollinators of Climate Action Club, along with the Sierra Club Maryland Natural Places Committee, is encouraging the use of native plants and designing and developing a mapping system to document natural habitat that will eventually connect with corridors in surrounding states.



Painting by Marguerite Cyr

Q: What can you do to help?

A: You can start by adding native plants to your garden or balcony. Insects coevolved with specific plants, and neither can survive without the other. The more diversity of native plants and trees you add, the greater the number of insects and birds you can attract and support.

Q: Do you already have a native plant garden? Get your garden on the map!

A: To qualify, you must maintain a portion of your yard, about 10 percent, in blooming native plants. To get your garden on the map, go to the Maryland

Wildlife Corridor website, <https://marylandcorridors.wordpress.com>. Here you can learn more, view the map, contact the group, etc. Then, from the menu bar, select **Join the Network** and complete the **Residence Application Form**. Your garden and its native plants will be entered onto the map.

Source: Adapted from the Maryland Wildlife Corridor website

—Submitted by Marguerite Cyr on behalf of The Pollinators Climate Action Coffee

Using the Takoma Park Project Directory

What is going on in Takoma Park? The Project Directory can fill you in! The Project Directory lists all major projects currently being worked on or planned citywide and includes need-to-know information for each one. takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory



- To access the Project Directory from the City of Takoma Park website, on the home page under initiatives, select “Project Directory” as shown above.

Project Title & Link	Project Classification	Target Completion Date	Status
ARPA American Rescue Plan Act	City Administration	December 31, 2025	Citywide
ARPA American Rescue Plan Act	Public Infrastructure - Transportation	Ongoing	2
ARPA American Rescue Plan Act	Public Infrastructure - Transportation	Ongoing	Citywide
ARPA American Rescue Plan Act	Public Infrastructure - Transportation	2023-25	5
ARPA American Rescue Plan Act	Public Infrastructure - Transportation	2023-25	Citywide
ARPA American Rescue Plan Act	Public Infrastructure - Transportation	2023-25	Citywide
ARPA American Rescue Plan Act	Public Infrastructure - Transportation	2023-25	Citywide
ARPA American Rescue Plan Act	Public Infrastructure - Transportation	2023-25	Citywide
ARPA American Rescue Plan Act	Public Infrastructure - Transportation	2023-25	Citywide
ARPA American Rescue Plan Act	Public Infrastructure - Transportation	2023-25	Citywide

- You’ll be taken to the “Project Directory” page, which lists all major projects being worked on or planned citywide. Projects are grouped by classification based on their purpose.



- Then click on the name of the project that interests you. In this example, a resident wanted more information about Streetlight Replacement Project.

Community ACTIVITIES

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday, July 6, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, July 13, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, July 20, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, July 27, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, August 3, 7:30 p.m. (tentative)

City Council Recess: The City Council will be on recess in August (unless there is a need to meet on August 3). Meetings will resume on Wednesday, September 14.

Kids' Art

Sunday, July 24, 1–3 p.m.
Takoma Park Maryland Library (front lawn)
101 Philadelphia Avenue
Join us for outdoor Spin Art in-person on the library's front lawn. Create art using a spinning platform and washable tempera paint. You may get a little messy! We have multiple spin centers, but you may have to wait for your turn. (Rain Plan: Rotunda area of the Community Center).

VILLAGE OF TAKOMA PARK EVENT

The Psychology of Clutter

Virtual Event (May be accessed via Internet or by phone)
Thursday, July 28, 1–2
The pandemic has had a tremendous impact on our lives, which can make our mental well-being even more crucial. It has been proven that our physical surroundings compete for our attention, resulting in decreased energy and productivity. Join us to discuss organizing tips in the hope of creating more peace and harmony in your space. Our presenter will be Candy Speight, Owner of Order Your Steps LLC, who has been a professional organizer for more than 10 years. She has worked with hundreds of career women, entrepreneurs, business owners, and retirees to enable them to put their homes--and for some, their home offices--in order. This program is free and open to all. Registration is required. For more information and to register, go to villageoftakomapark.com or call 301-646-2109.

Opening Reception Unsung Heroes Exhibition

Thursday, July 28, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Many City of Takoma Park employees perform important work every day that goes unheralded and unsung, but the city would grind to a halt without them. Local artist Renee Lachman will be honoring city employees in a new series of paintings and charcoal drawings, including sanitation workers, gardeners, crossing guards, and library staff. Join us for this free opening reception to kick off the exhibit.

Annette Wasilik & The Porchmen with Quiet the Mountain

Saturday, July 30, 7–9 p.m.
Gazebo
7035 Carroll Avenue
Multi-award-winning Americana singer/songwriter Annette Wasilik performs songs from her latest release, *Love & Fire* along with choice covers with Brian Evans (songwriter, vocals, guitar, harp) and Jeff Karn (mando, guitar, vocals). Quiet the Mountain is a duo out of Catonsville. Jimmy Stewart and Christian Alfonso blend intricate vocal harmonies and guitar voicings to create a gorgeous and gentle sound. \$10-\$20 suggested donation. www.annetewasilik.com

ONGOING

Volunteer at Crossroads Farmers Market!

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. (Through November 23)
Anne St. at University Blvd. E.
They need help with setting up, breaking down, and various tasks throughout the day. To learn more and sign up to volunteer, visit www.crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org/event/volunteer-at-the-market-7.

Historic Takoma Reading Room

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

Docs In Progress

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

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:

- **Part-time Crossing Guards and a part-time Substitute Crossing Guard** to help ensure the safe streets and passage of our young residents during before and after school hours during the MCPS school year.
- **Mechanic** to perform diagnostics, troubleshoot, and repair cars, trucks, trash trucks and other equipment; rebuild engines and replace tires; and other duties as assigned.

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.

UPCOMING



SAVE THE DATE
AUGUST 2, 2022

TAKOMA PARK POLICE

Celebrated on the first Tuesday in August, National Night Out Day is a day that is designed to make communities safer and more caring. It does this through national community-building programs that promote a key aspect to safer and more caring neighborhoods: police and community partnerships. Research has shown that partnerships between communities and local police forces can have a positive effect not only on crime but also on the communities' trust in law enforcement.

Wordsmith wanted.

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

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



The City of Takoma is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Information and Resources: Covid19
takomaparkmd.gov

Questions, Comments and Suggestions
askus@takomaparkmd.gov

#TogetherTKPK

