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 Latina participants, behind fully protected bike lanes, was a safe place to lock up bikes. Bike racks felt like an option that was high priority for parks and businesses and using public right-of-ways for most of the installation felt like an option that was high

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). The 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 country,” 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 experiencing 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 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/agency/tv or follow Takoma Park City TV on Facebook and YouTube.
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 by 5 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Any resident who cannot attend in person or use Zoom for public comments should contact the City Clerk’s Office for assistance. Call Irma Nalvarte at 301-891-7214 or email irman@takomaparkmd.gov.

The public can continue to view meetings as always: on City TV (RCN – 13, HD 1060; Comcast/finity – 13, HD 997; Verizon Fios – 28), on the City Council Video Page of the City Website; on CityTVYouTube, 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 Action

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.

On June 3, 2022

The City Council adopted Ordinance 2022-20 to award a contract for City TV channel automation, digital signage, and closed captioning system upgrades. The contract is for 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. Citizens 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.
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, address, date of birth, contact information, and the name of the position you seek. Candidate registration for the 2022 election began on June 13. There is no 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 councilmember will receive a salary of $24,000 per year. Elected officials are eligible to receive health insurance benefits equivalent to those of full-time City employees. Other benefits include use of a City of Takoma Park smartphone for City email and phone calls during the term in office, opportunity to attend, without cost, conferences beneficial to the City through organizations such as the National League of Cities and the Maryland Municipal League (MML), and reimbursement of certain other expenses, such as for travel.

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

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 a particular ward, and if such nomination is seconded by a qualified voter of such 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.

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Thinking About Running for Office?

Consider leading and serving your community by running for office...
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 receptacle, 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.

BIKE RACK

Art by Ella Spirtas

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.

ART COMPETITION

Art by Ella Spirtas

dedicated to helping Members of Congress better serve theirconstituents, 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 the district and at an annual awards ceremony in Washington, DC.

Free, fun play for all ages, abilities, and backgrounds!

NOTE: Individuals, businesses and organizations can become a sponsor for this fabulous resource! Email info@letsplayamerica.org for more information.

Please help us enable these special events to continue: DONATE https://www.letsplayamerica.org/donate

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@lets.play.america @america_plays Let’s Play America

Since 2000 Play Days and other 120+ 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 120+ play events.
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 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 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.

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 three themed categories or an open category. The online application form is available at https://bit.ly/3PH7o2O, 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/3PQgrX9, and the deadline is July 17.
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.
*Week of July 5-July 8: $110
8, One Week Sessions
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
6–12 years
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Takoma Park Recreation Center
register for just one week or all eight.

New Ave Adventure Camp
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!

MAPS
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
Saturday, 1:30–2:30 p.m.
July 9-August 7
Resident: $115 / Non-resident: $175
Uniform Fee: $70

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 an 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 Rhoad at haven@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

FITNESS
Afrobeat/Afro-Ndobe Dancel Class
A contemporary Afro Dance company specializing in African dancing, Zuris Sana’a DanXercise’s mission is to bring you joy and memories through the art of dance. Zuris Sana’a DanXercise combines hip hop, salsa, ...
dancehall, 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: $5 / Non-resident: $10

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 7
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: Charrone 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 exercises? 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
7515 New Hampshire Avenue
16 & up
Mondays & Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.
Dropping
Free with Recreation Center Membership

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
8:30–11:00 a.m.
$5

55+

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 incorporates 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

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 interfaith 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.

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.

Alessandra Flores

Translation on website www.takomaparkmd.gov
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 moral, values, and intent (imperfect though the document and its authors and signers are), and while it’s traditionally a super picturesque 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 150’s are the traditional place to go for “psychology” and self-discovery, and we have plenty of great books there for all ages.

David Brooke’s The Road to Character encourages readers to emphasize virtues that “exist at the core of our being.”


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 in antiracist 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 Diffi cult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most and Safely 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

Finding Yourself at the Library

Sponsored by Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Scribbler’s Cabal and Comics Jam Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Sponsored by Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Scribbler’s Cabal and Comics Jam

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; Laksh was the master of trickery and magic. But what beings might oversee modern forces? Satellites and advertising and traffic may have reincarnations that assist or trouble us. Find them!

SummerQuest is an interactive reading game for all ages from read-to-me to adulthood. Readers 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!

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.

Hours and Calendar

Library hours are:

Monday–Thursday: 10 a.m.–8 p.m.
Friday–Saturday: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Computer Center hours are:

Monday–Thursday: 10 a.m.–8 p.m.
Friday–Saturday: 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.

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.

• To protect our most vulnerable patrons and staff, the library strongly encourages everyone to continue to wear a mask while in the library, even though masks are optional in City facilities.

• Books-to-Go is continuing, and the book return bin is still open at all times. Please note if you are picking up a Books-to-Bio 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.

• To know how we personally identify and interact with those issues.

Find your place among fonts, graphics, and of course, how the library can assist you understand 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.

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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 Penleiton 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.coffebreaklanguages.com or wherever you get your podcasts.

Hello, Friend / Hola, Amigo

Hello, Friend / Hola, Amigo, written and illustrated by Charlotte Carter originally introduces us to busker Nanette Hayes, an African American jazz saxophonist. When Bian 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 tempts 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.

Finding Yourself

From page 8

SSL Hours Available This Summer

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

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 fpmbookgroup@gmail.com.

Rhode Island Red introduces us to busker Nanette Hayes, an African American jazz saxophonist. When Bian 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.

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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 birth number for discussion in July 2022 Takoma Park News

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Walk 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.

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 marks 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.

Summer Safety Tips: The Grilling Edition

By Jim Jarboe

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 charcoal, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids on fires, 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

[Image]
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 (wear 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 littering, 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!
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 p.m.
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 Spiegelt, 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 Wasiłik & The Porchmen with Quiet the Mountain
Saturday, July 30, 7–9 p.m.
Gazebo
7035 Carroll Avenue
Multi-award-winning Americana singer/songwriter Annette Wasiłik 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 soundscape. $10-$20 suggested donation. www.annettewasilik.com

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. Please go to 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, troubleshooting, 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.

Information and Resources: Covid19

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takomaparkmd.gov

Questions, Comments and Suggestions
askus@takomaparkmd.gov

#TogetherTKPK

END OF PAGE