

JUNE  
2022

# TAKOMA PARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 61, No. 6 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

## WHAT'S NEW?

### FTPML Book Clubs

Details, page 9

### Biking News

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### City Election Info

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### City offices and facilities closed

Juneteenth: June 20  
Fourth of July: July 3 - 4

### Trash/Recycling Collection

Yard Waste collection  
canceled for June 20 and July 4.

Look for this icon  
throughout this  
issue

See page 10

## Stormwater Abatement Credits Now Available

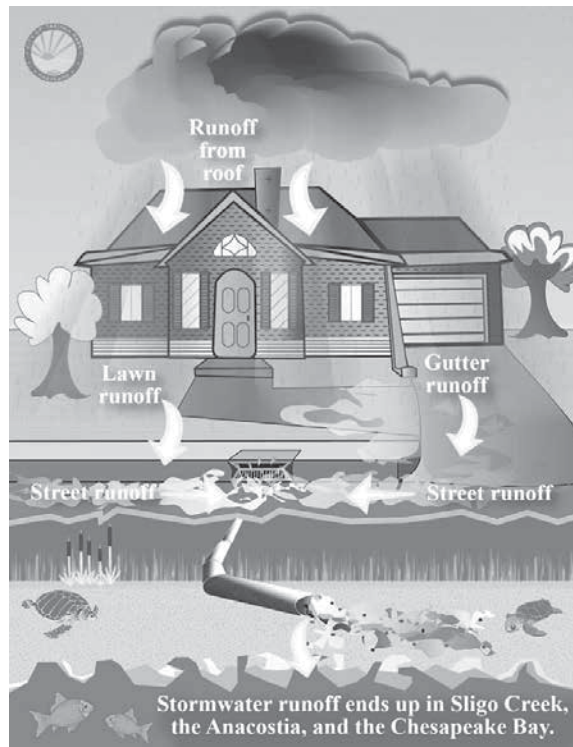
By Sean Gossard

Takoma Park has implemented a new program to provide credit to property owners who take measures to mitigate the amount of stormwater runoff from their property.

Beginning this year, any property owner in Takoma Park can receive a partial credit for carrying out qualifying measures to lessen the impact of stormwater—such as tree plantings, installation of rain gardens, permeable pavements and green roofs, to name only a few. These measures help lessen the effects of excess rainfall that is not absorbed by the ground, trees, or plants.

“These measures are based on best management practice in the field of stormwater management,” says Takoma Park Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite. “So those measures are the ones that are most effective to stormwater management. And we always want to encourage people to plant more trees.”

Stormwater picks up sediments, oils, debris and other contaminants from streets and lawns before eventually mak-



The illustration above explains stormwater runoff graphically.

ing its way to waterways like Sligo Creek, the Anacostia River and the Chesapeake Bay. This can cause erosion—further increasing the pollution going into local wa-

STORMWATER □ Page 3

## Fourth of July Parade Returns

After a two-year hiatus, Takoma Park's 4th of July Parade will be returning for 2022. Please spread the word! This year's parade theme is Takoma Park: Together Again, and the Grand Marshal is Takoma Park's new City Manager Jamal T. Fox. Takoma Park will not host fireworks this year. Instead, this year's celebration will build on the Takoma Park 4th of July Evening “Street Party” that took place in 2019 and bring our community together for a celebration with more music, games, food and drink, and other special activities. More details to come! To stay up to date on the parade and evening celebration, visit [www.takomapark4th.org](http://www.takomapark4th.org).



City Manager Jamal T. Fox



## Takoma Park Celebrates “Pride”

By Sean Gossard

June is Pride Month—a time to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community—and all-around Takoma Park there will be various events to mark the month-long celebration.

This year, Main Street Takoma will be holding a “Just Say Gay” Pride event on Sunday, June 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The theme is in response to Florida's so-called “Don't Say Gay” bill that bans teachers in the state from having classroom instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity. As part of the special day, there will be a Just Say Gay rainbow flower selfie station outside the Takoma Farmers Market where people will be encouraged to take photos and post with the hashtag #JUSTSAYGAY!

Along with the selfie board, people are welcome to share messages of Pride on the closed section of Laurel Avenue where there will be colorful chalk available. There will also be plenty of stickers, buttons, pins, and temporary tattoos to show your Pride.

PRIDE □ Page 3



## Inside



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PRE-SORT STANDARD  
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# DOCKET

## Official City Government Meetings

**City Council 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](mailto:irman@takomaparkmd.gov).

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

**Other Public Meetings:** 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](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov).

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Wednesday, June 1, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 8, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 15, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 22, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 29, 7:30 p.m. (tentative)
- Wednesday, July 6, 7:30 p.m.

### CITY BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

#### BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, June 9, 7:30 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

#### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 23, 7 p.m. (Hybrid Meeting - CC Hydrangea Room and Remote/Virtual)

#### GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 7, 6:30 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

#### NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 14, 7:30 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

#### POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, June 20, 7 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

#### RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 16, 7 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

#### SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND COMMITTEE

Monday, June 6, 7 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

#### TREE COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 8, 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](mailto:jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7267 as early as possible.

## City Council Action

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

On **April 27, 2022**, the City Council adopted **Ordinance 2022-11** to amend City Code Chapter 11.04 Regulating Signs in Public Areas and in Public Rights of Way. The ordinance will become effective on July 1, 2022. The existing sign ordinance remains suspended until July 1. (Councilmember Smith voted against the ordinance.) The Council also adopted **Ordinance 2022-12**, effecting a minor amendment to Takoma Park Code Chapter 4.24, Police Employees' Retirement Plan. The amendment addresses officers who were unable to apply for the DROP (Deferred Retirement Option Program) due to administrative

delays in implementing the application process. Ordinances 2022-11 and 2022-12 were first read on April 20, 2022.

By **Resolution 2022-12**, adopted on **May 4, 2022**, the City Council authorized a series of street closures for Old Takoma Business Association events.

On **May 11, 2022**, the City Council adopted **Ordinance 2022-13**, FY23 Budget Amendment No. 4. (First reading was held on May 4.) Finally, by **Ordinance 2022-17**, the City Council authorized the purchase of a vehicle for the Police Special Assignment Team. The cost of the vehicle and installed equipment is \$73,320.

## Public Space Plan Community Meeting

Do you care about the future of parks? Bike lanes? Sidewalks? Streeteries? Join the City's Planning Division for an introductory meeting about the Public Space Management Plan - where it is now and where it's heading!

**When:** Monday, June 27, 7 p.m.

**Where:** Takoma Park Community Center (7500 Maple Ave)

For more information and details, visit: [tinyurl.com/PublicSpacePlan](https://tinyurl.com/PublicSpacePlan)



## CITY ELECTION Tuesday, November 8, 2022

2022 is an election year in Takoma Park. 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

Consider leading and serving your community by running for office. 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 begins 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.

### 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. A candidate may nominate themselves or second their nomination. 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.

Anyone with questions or who would like additional information should contact Jessie Carpenter, [jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7267. Additional information is also available at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov).

### 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 current 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.



STORMWATER
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terways—and harm fragile ecosystems.
'The city has seen some flooding certainly on New Hampshire Avenue and the Sligo Creek area,' Braithwaite said.
The maximum credit available to property owners is a 50% reduction of the original Stormwater Utility Fee, according to the city.
The new credit program comes at the request of the city council, which last year changed the stormwater utility fee rate from a flat rate of \$92 per single-family property annually to a tiered rate based on a \$25 fee per 500 square feet of impervious area.
'The credit is brand new and it was a component the council required when we changed the fee structure last year,' Braithwaite said.
Commercial and institutional properties have been charged based on the amount of impervious surface on their property since the implementation of the stormwater fee decades ago.
According to Takoma Park officials, the Montgomery County Parcel Database, which has the most up-to-date impervious area analysis data available, is used to determine the impervious area square footage.
Residents also have the option of requesting corrections to their assessed impervious surface calculation, if they

believe there is an error.
The stormwater credit application can be completed online or printed and returned via email to publicworks@takomaparkmd.gov or by mail to Public Works at 31 Oswego Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910.
In future years, the application must be received by April 30 in order to be considered for the following year's billing cycle and the credit will be included as a reduction to the stormwater fee charged.
The credit for tree planting is a one-year credit and the credit for all other measures covers a three-year period.
There are plenty of ways for Takoma Park residents to help lessen the damage done by stormwater, including sweeping up yard debris; using non-toxic, biodegradable and recyclable products whenever possible; reducing the amount of paved and impervious areas; and using native ground cover, grasses and vegetation on your property.
For more information on local storm water management, or to access the program guidance documents and application, visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/public-works/stormwater-management-program.

PRIDE
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Other events include Drag Queen Storytime at 11 a.m., face painting for kids from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Tap Ensemble from Knock on Wood Studio taps for Pride on the Laurel Avenue Streetery at noon.
Pride is held in June every year to celebrate the anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion in New York City on June 28,

1969, where patrons at Stonewall Inn, an LGBT bar, fought back against police raids that were common against the community.
Today, marches and other events are held all over the U.S., including Capital Pride in D.C. on Saturday, June 11, from 3 to 7:30 p.m.
For more information, visit mainstreetakoma.org/takomapride.

A Message from Chief DeVaul on School Security Preparedness in Takoma Park

Our hearts are with the families of the children and teachers who lost their lives in the senseless act of gun violence in Uvalde, Texas, last week.
There have been several questions about the tactics utilized by law enforcement in the incident in Uvalde. As the investigation of that incident and response continues, I wanted to update residents on our preparedness should an incident occur in Takoma Park. I want to stress there are no active threats to any schools in Takoma Park.

The City of Takoma Park Police Department has an Emergency Response Team (ERT). Officers on the ERT received advanced training in emergency response. In addition to the ERT, all of our officers have been trained on active shooter response. We have also conducted training drills at our schools, so we are familiar with the layout of the schools should an incident occur. Our officers are trained to immediately address and subdue any threat in an active shooter incident. We regularly train this response protocol.

We meet regularly with staff at all our schools in Takoma Park to discuss security and other issues. Since the incident in Texas, we have been in contact with MCPS staff to ensure all security measures are in place to prevent and respond to any possible



Chief DeVaul

incident.
Hopefully, our training is something that we will never need to utilize here in Takoma Park. However, if an active shooter incident were to occur in Takoma Park, we are well prepared to respond. We are committed to supporting, serving, and protecting our residents here in Takoma Park.

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared on the City's website (May 27, 2022): takomaparkmd.gov/public-notices/a-message-from-chief-devaul-on-school-security-preparedness-in-takoma-park.

Important City Phone Numbers

Table with 2 columns: City Information, City Clerk, Communications, Finance, Housing & Community Development, Library, Neighborhood Services, Police, Public Works, Recreation/Facilities Rental. Each row lists a department and its corresponding phone number.



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER
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Assistant: Sean Gossard
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The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 12 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, takomaparkmd.gov.

Advertisement for 'LIGHTS ON! A PROGRAM OF MICROGRANTS'. It features the Takoma Park Police Department logo and a graphic of a car with a lightbulb. Text includes: 'IT STARTED WITH A SIMPLE IDEA', 'SAFER', and 'Fixing car lights that would otherwise remain broken is good for everyone.'

Lights On! partners with the Takoma Park Police Department. 'We are committed to helping the residents of Takoma Park in as many ways as we can,' said Chief DeVaul. For information about the program, which began on May 31, visit https://bit.ly/3z3WFbA.





# BUILDING COMMUNITY



## Provide Input on Takoma Park Minor Master Plan Amendment

Montgomery Planning (M-NCPPC), in partnership with the City of Takoma Park, seeks your input on the Takoma Park Minor Master Plan Amendment (TPMMA). This effort seeks to re-envision the areas near and along Maple and Lee Avenues, the Erie Center and the Washington Adventist Hospital and University campuses. If you would like to learn more, visit our website at [www.montgomeryplanning.org/tpmma](http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/tpmma). The team is also available to attend a neighborhood meeting. Feel free to reach out to Melissa Williams, lead planner, at [melissa.williams@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:melissa.williams@montgomeryplanning.org).



## Big Bike Rack Install of 2022



In April, the City ordered 52 new bike racks and one new public bike repair station. The new racks will be installed in all six wards, with special focus on public parks, local shopping destinations, and areas of the City currently underserved by bike infrastructure. The new repair station will be the City's fourth, located at the Recreation Center. Racks will be installed on a rolling basis during the next couple of months.

## Announcing Two New Bike Infrastructure Grants

In May, the MWCOG Transportation Planning Board (TPB) awarded the City of Takoma Park two new grants, totaling \$130,000 in technical assistance. One grant supports preliminary designs to upgrade the Metropolitan Branch Trail, which crosses through Takoma Park along Takoma Ave and Fenton St. The second grant supports preliminary designs for the New Ave Bikeway to connect from Poplar Ave to Kansas Ave NE at the DC border. To learn more, visit the City's Bikeways Program web page.

### National Bike Month by the Numbers

*May was National Bike Month, and the City of Takoma Park was busy working to make bike riding safer and more enjoyable!*



- 5** Local public schools that participated in Bike to School Day (May 4)
- 150+** Riders who visited the City's two pit stops for Bike the Work Day (May 20)
- 52** New bike racks purchased and to be installed around the City
- 3** Public bike repair stations that received tune-ups and fresh parts
- \$130,000** Grant amount awarded for two new bikeways projects
- 4** actions tied to different bike parts during Library Circle Time (May 11)

## Borrow a Portable Induction Cooktop

Residents of Takoma Park can now borrow a portable induction cooktop to see what all the hype is about. Cooktops are available to check out, for up to two weeks, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Public Works Department front desk (31 Oswego Avenue). You can call 301-891-7633 to check if a cooktop is available or join the waiting list for one.

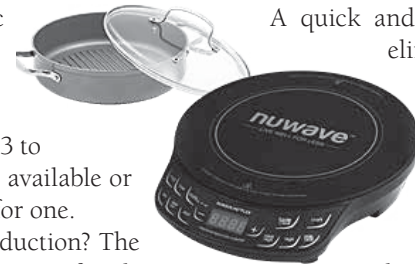
Why cook with induction? The City encourages the use of induction cooktops to meet our 2035 net-zero emissions goals. Induction stoves, unlike gas stoves, use electricity (learn how to get 100 percent renewable electricity: <https://www.mdelectricchoice.com>) and emit no on-site greenhouse gases. A reduction in the level of greenhouse gases is beneficial not just for the City's climate goals, but also for your respiratory health. Prolonged exposure to indoor air pollution, especially emissions related to cooking, can worsen asthma in those who have the disease and increase the risk of childhood asthma.

Other benefits of induction cooktops are that they boil water faster than their gas counterparts, provide precise temperature control, and are easier to clean. Induction cooking uses electromagnetic waves, rather than a flame or electric coil to heat a pot or pan. For induction to work, you must use pots and pans that are magnetic, such as stainless steel and cast iron. A compatible non-stick pan is included with

all the City's cooktops in case your cookware is not compatible. Induction cooktops also have little to no residual heat – making them the safest cooktop option for people with children as there is no flame or hot surface.

A quick and affordable option for eliminating fossil fuels in your kitchen is to simply stop using your gas range and cover the top with a thin cutting board (after ensuring the range cannot be accidentally turned on) and put a portable induction cooktop on top. Two-burner portable induction cooktops can be purchased for as little as \$130 and use a standard electrical outlet – no special wiring needed. A countertop oven/toaster oven can cover most baking needs, except maybe a big Thanksgiving turkey.

The City encourages you to do a boil test and share your experience. Time how long it takes to boil cold tap water in a side-by-side comparison between your existing stove and the induction cooktop. Tag #SustainableTKPK on Twitter with your videos and results. You can learn more about electrifying your cooking and other fossil fuel-based systems in your home at [www.rewiringamerica.org/why-electrify](http://www.rewiringamerica.org/why-electrify) and keep an eye on the City website ([takomaparkmd.gov/government/sustainability/grants](http://takomaparkmd.gov/government/sustainability/grants)) for the next round of Electrification Grants this summer!



## Celebrate Crossing Guard Appreciation Day on Wednesday, June 8

On the morning of June 8, let's show our local crossing guards how much we appreciate them - it's Crossing Guard Appreciation Day! In the beating sun and the pouring rain, our all-star team of crossing guards work hard to keep our students and families safe during the school year. Help us celebrate them Wednesday, June 8. Take a moment to talk with your kids about pedestrian safety and the important work of the Crossing Guards. Tables will be set up near each crossing guard post in the morning to receive cards, flowers, or other tokens of appreciation. We are grateful for our crossing guards every day; let's make this one a little extra special!



As of 2019, close to 59,000 crossing guards worked in the United States. (Source: DATA USA)



## **Takoma Park Arts Series Featured at Local Bus Shelters**

Where can you see the Orfeia vocal ensemble, Dong Xi duet, and artwork made from delicate fabric or battered musical instruments?

The performers and artwork were featured in the *Takoma Park Arts* cultural series, and they appear now on vinyl wraps that have been installed on glass panels at three new local bus shelters. The public art project is beautifying bus shelters and promoting the *Takoma Park Arts* series, which includes free City-funded art exhibitions, concerts, poetry readings, film screenings, theater, and other events at the Takoma Park Community Center at 7500 Maple Avenue.

“We want to get the word out about the many free events we host at the Takoma Park Community Center, and bus shelters are a great place to do that,” Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith said.

The wraps, which were designed by Arts and Humanities Intern Paula Barrios, are located on a new bus shelter at Piney Branch Elementary School at 7510 Maple Avenue and two shelters at the intersection of Flower and Houston Avenues. The featured artwork was created by Jacqui Crocetta and Seemeen Hashem.

The project is part of the *Public Art Works* initiative, which installs public



art projects in conjunction with Public Works efforts. Other projects include the *Art on the Move* bus shelter poster series featuring artwork by artists in up-

coming *Takoma Park Arts* exhibitions and a sidewalk poetry program where poems by residents are being stamped into new concrete sidewalks.

Barrios also is creating a different graphic design that will be installed at a later date on two more bus shelters on Maple and New Hampshire Avenues.

## **Cold War Films and the Threats of Propaganda**

### **Vintage Movie Night: Cold War Revisited**

[www.facebook.com/events/295721895944636](https://www.facebook.com/events/295721895944636)

Free Film Screening

Thursday, June 16, 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

7500 Maple Avenue



As Russia's war in Ukraine raises threats of nuclear war, memories of the Cold War and the dark shadows of worldwide nuclear annihilation are resurfacing in our collective consciousness. In his latest Vintage Movie Night film screening on June 16 at 7:30 p.m., archival film enthusiast and filmmaker Richard Hall will share his sampling of Cold War-era classroom and propaganda films from the 1940s to the 1980s.

The screening will include films from different perspectives: scientists warning against nuclear war, “how to” films to survive a nuclear attack, nuclear test films, and much more. Some of the films deconstruct Soviet propaganda methods, some of which are still being used today by the Russian government to convince its citizens that the war in Ukraine is just a “special operation” to liberate Ukraine

from imagined Nazis. In a recent interview, Hall shared his thoughts about the Cold War and the ongoing threats from propaganda.

### **Why did you focus on Cold War films for this screening?**

**Hall:** I grew up during the Cold War when we all knew that a mistake by the Soviet Union or the United States could lead to global nuclear annihilation. That persistent nightmare infected the way I, and many others, viewed the world. Now, with the horrible war in Ukraine

and nuclear threats from Vladimir Putin, I thought it would be illuminating to screen some vintage films that illustrate the Cold War mentality.

### **How has government propaganda changed since the Cold War, and what has remained the same?**

**Hall:** Many of the vintage government films and clips that I will show assumed that the public had a great deal of trust and confidence in the military and political leaders of the time. People did make fun of “nuclear survival” films, but most

had faith in the American system, especially if you were a white male, and white males created most of these films.

It's safe to assume that many people don't trust what the government says or does now, but the nefarious methods of propaganda haven't stopped. Cold War propaganda could be very sophisticated, and some of the Soviet methods are still being used by the Russians but in different formats. Social media would've been a dream come true for propagandists of the past.

### **What danger does propaganda pose for society, and what is the best way to combat it?**

**Hall:** U.S. government propaganda and lies led to the Iraq War and tens of thousands of deaths, along with blowback that is still manifesting itself almost 20 years later. Finding trustworthy sources of information and being skeptical about the words and actions of political leaders is one way to combat disinformation.

We live in such a strange “Alice in Wonderland” world now with conspiracy theories, deep fakes, social media bots, and the rise of authoritarianism that there is no easy way to combat propaganda. Disbelieving everything the government says has now become a big problem in itself. We need to restore faith in civil society, so we can act to solve these thorny issues.



# RECREATION

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Family Outdoor Movie

Movie time starts at dusk on Ed Wilhelm Field (behind Piney Branch Elementary School). Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a movie under the stars with your family! The movie will be a family friendly "G" or "PG" rated hit. The Recreation Department will provide one small bag of popcorn per person and water. Due to limited parking, walking to the event is encouraged.

Ed Wilhelm Field  
All ages  
Saturday, starting at dusk  
June 4  
Free

## YOUTH

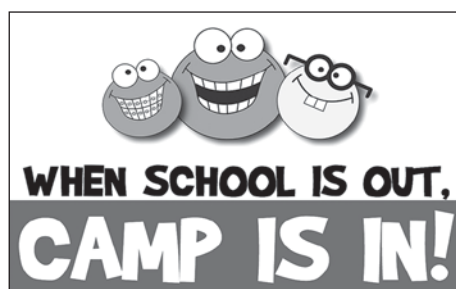
### CAMP



#### Dance Camp

Choreography, ballet, modern dance and hip-hop are geared to allow youth the opportunity to enhance talents with 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  
June 29-August 19

## 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 are 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

\$140 per week

\*Week of June 29-July 1: \$84

\*Week of July 5-July 8: \$110

## 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 p.m.-2:30 p.m.  
July 9-August 27  
Resident: \$155 / Non-resident: \$175  
Uniform Fee: \$70

## TEENS

### CAMP

#### 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



Participants who register for both before care and after care at the same facility in one transaction will receive a discount.

- 20% deposit due at the time of registration. The remaining balance will be divided into monthly payments beginning October 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.

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 5-29

Resident: \$140 / Non-Resident: \$160



#### Visual Arts Camp

Campers have fun and express themselves with color, shape and design. They sharpen their drawing skills, explore new media, and exercise their imagination with these inspiring art projects. Each week a different theme: Portraits, Still Life/ Interiors; and Land, Sea, and Cityscape. Each assignment is inspired by periods of art history. Fun art related games and movies! A willingness to sit at a table for extended periods of time is a

must! **All materials are included.** Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of the program. \*Before and After Care are also available for an additional fee.\*

Takoma Park Community Center

7500 Maple Avenue

Art Studio

11-15 years

June 27-July 1: Portraits

July 11-July 15: Still Life/Interiors

July 18-July 22: Land, Sea, and Cityscape

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Resident: \$295 / Non-resident: \$325

## SPORTS



#### Y.E.S. Summer Basketball League

This program provides a positive venue for youth and teens to express themselves through the game of basketball. Teams will be guaranteed five games and the season will conclude with playoffs and a championship game. Each participant will receive a Y.E.S. League t-shirt. For more information, please email tpsports@takomaparkmd.gov.

Takoma Park Recreation Center

Gymnasium

7315 New Hampshire Avenue

5 Week Season

June 20-July 26

(No Games the week of July 4)

6-8 p.m.

**Grades 5-8, Mondays**

**Grades 9-12, Tuesdays**

Resident: \$35 / Non-resident: \$45

## SPECIAL EVENT

### School's Out Cookout and Field Day

School's out!! To celebrate, the teen program will be hosting a community field day full of friends, food, and fun at Ed Wilhelm Field. Kick back and listen to beats by a live DJ or participate in classic field day games like potato-sack races and relay games. Invite your friends and come to have a good time celebrating the end of the school year. You made it! Don't miss out on all the fun! For more information, please contact Haven Rhodd at HavenR@takomaparkmd.gov.

Ed Wilhelm Field

2 Darwin Avenue

Grades: 6-12

Friday, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

June 17

Free

## 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





# RECREATION

## RECREATION

■ From page 6

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. 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, 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.  
July 7–August 25  
Resident: \$50 / Non-resident: \$60

### Foundation Fitness II

Foundation Fitness II is a fitness program for participants that 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 roller and exercise balls. All equipment will need to be provided by the participants. Foundation Fitness II will enhance tone, strengthen all major muscle groups, and increase stamina and flexibility. Instructor: Michael Williams

Virtual  
18 & Up  
Saturdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.  
July 2–August 27  
\$5

### 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: Allie Cook

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+

### DROP-IN



### Bingo

Come try your luck and win a prize! This is drop-in; no registration required. If the weather is nice, we'll have bingo outdoors. If not, we'll have bingo indoors. Host: Paula Lisowski

Takoma Park Community Center  
Senior Room  
7500 Maple Avenue  
55 & up  
Tuesday, 12–2 p.m.  
June 28  
Free

## EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

### The Big 6: Feel More Vibrant Now

Learn the six aspects of wellbeing that contribute to a more vibrant life and the strategies to optimize each of the six areas. Identify small changes you can make to help improve your vibrancy and vitality. Instructor: Cynthia M. Luna,

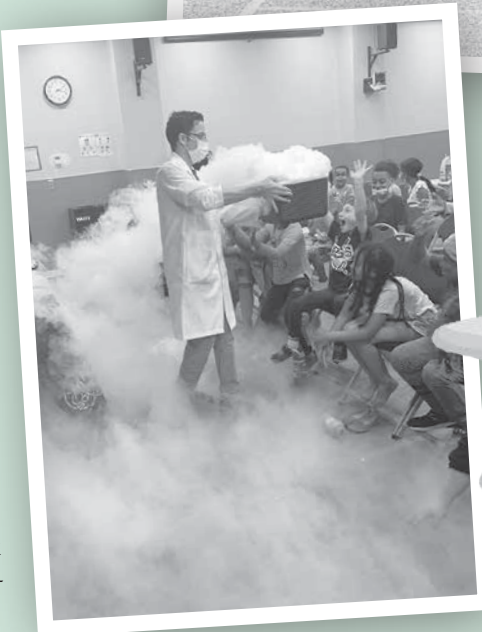
RECREATION □ Page 9

## Summer Camp

Camps are a vital need for all youth. It is a great opportunity to create spaces for youth to be outdoors, active and socializing. This environment allows a sense of community to develop amongst the camp participants. At a time when most social interactions are more geared towards health and safety precautions, camp offers the freedom to be creative and imaginative and to have fun. After the rollercoaster of the last several years, the idea of being out of the house, active and around new people is thrilling and exciting. Summer is quickly sneaking up on us, and if you haven't made any summer plans yet, it's time to act!

Takoma Park Recreation Department Camps are now proudly licensed by the Maryland Department of Health, and we are offering a multitude of options for youth in the community. Eight weeks of general camps; Camp Takoma and New Ave Adventure Camp for children ages 6–12. Just Teens is offered for four weeks in July for youth in grades 6–12. In addition to these general camps, we have brought back specialty camps for the first time since 2019. There are three weeks of Visual Arts Camp and two sessions of Dance Camp.

Interest in summer activities has greatly increased, and with registration open since Spring, several of our programs have filled up. Space is limited, so be sure to register today! If you have any questions regarding programs and classes, please contact us at [recreation@takomparkmd.gov](mailto:recreation@takomparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7290.





# LIBRARY



## DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

### What Does Pride Mean in Libraries?

By Jessica Jones

**Content warning:** If you are sensitive to or triggered by content related to homophobia or hate crimes, this article may be a difficult read. Please be kind to yourself and read with care.

I have talked about my background in Texas libraries in these articles before, and those experiences strongly inform how I feel about Pride in libraries. Texas is by no means a monolith, but that's not to say its conservative-leaning reputation is unearned. I was living outside the blue metropolitan islands in Texas when the Pulse Nightclub shooting happened in June 2016, and the public discourse there was fraught and complicated.

A close gay friend of mine made the comment that the people who were downplaying this tragedy - and the LGBTQIA2S+ aspect of it - didn't know what it was like to be afraid to hold hands with someone you love in public. He said they must not know what it was like to need a safe haven. I think about that statement a lot when I consider where libraries belong in this conversation.

And, maybe it's less about where libraries belong and more about who belongs in libraries. I'm not in Texas anymore, so I can say we are a Safe Space without someone scoffing and calling me a snowflake. Can you imagine what it would be like to come out as a trans boy in a voting district where Trump won by almost 25 points in 2016? The library should be a safe space for that child, and it should be a safe place for his family to ask questions about what it means to be trans and how to best care for a child with that identity. And I want to say, that kid is real, and is my hero.

I think a lot about the book banning that is happening in Texas (and nationally as well) and my experiences fielding those confrontations. There was a boycott of my last library organized by a nearby church because we displayed the updated version of *Heather Has Two Mommies* on our new books shelf.

There was a mother who had a meltdown in the library over a book called *My Two Dads*. It was one book in a series



about kids and different family situations: some have divorced parents, some live with grandparents, and some have two dads. The reaction was dramatic enough that I could tell it wasn't just about the book, and after talking to her, I learned that she had recently kicked her gay son out of her house when he came out to her.

The world is a really tough place sometimes. We celebrate Pride because it represents both the hard work of generations fighting for equality, as well as the individuals whose lives and legacies deserve respect and recognition.

In libraries, Pride is collection development and acquiring books that support LGBTQIA2S+ art and livelihoods. It's circulating books that represent the whole spectrum and help our patrons feel seen and enlightened. It's programs that celebrate LGBTQIA2S+ identities, histories, and contributions. It is also providing a safe space for individuals to discover themselves and their cultural ancestors.

I want to end this on a high note. The other side of tragedy is joy, and Pride is joyful! Even in that red Texas county, the kids at my library gave me hope. Their ability to seamlessly switch pronouns when corrected, to unflinchingly accept their peers' identities, and to resist the older cultural hegemony of bias, was so heartening. The kids are alright.

This Pride month, find some joy. If you're burned out and can't seem to find any, the library is here to help you find some.

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

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

**Holiday Closings:** The Library and Computer Center will be closed on Sunday and Monday, June 19 and 20, in observance of Juneteenth Day. The Library and Computer Center will be closed on 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. Registration isn't required for these programs, but if you are registered, we will send reminders as well as notices of any changes or cancellations. Register at [www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryprograms](http://www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryprograms). Please make sure you register for the Zoom version of these programs.

## CALENDAR

**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. Masking is strongly encouraged for all indoor activities.

**Canta Juego:** Spanish Circle Time every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom! Join the fun at our weekly Zoom Spanish Circle Time, led by Señora Geiza. In this 30-minute program, kids and adults can sing songs and do rhymes and movement exercises in Spanish. To participate, go to

<https://zoom.us>. Click on "Join a Meeting." Then enter Meeting ID: 959-5178-5847 and Meeting Password: 793725. Sponsored by Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

**Scribbler's Cabal** is now on Thursdays! Your favorite Sketch Club now meets weekly on Thursdays from 4–5:30 p.m. Join the program via Zoom or in-person at the Children's Room.

**Comics Jam!** The next Comics Jam will be Wednesday, June 8 from 4–5:30 p.m. Join in-person in the Children's Room or online on Zoom.

**PROGRAMS:** To keep up with all our programs, go to [www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents](http://www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents).

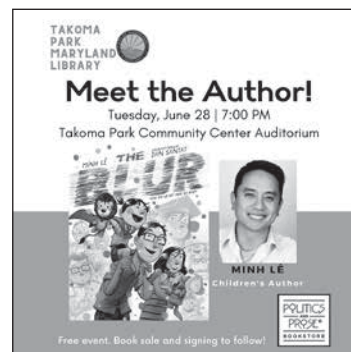
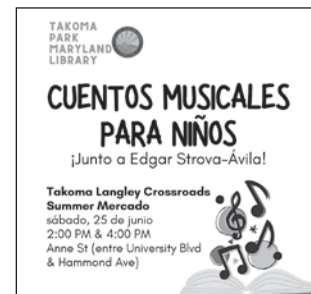
## EVENTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS

**Drag Queen Story Hour with Citrine!** Join us on Sunday, June 5 at 1 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium for a very special story time. Brought to you by a partnership between the Panthers and Dolphins Rainbow Club and Friends of Takoma Park Maryland Library.



**Illustrator Event!** Orpheus Collar will be here on Sunday, June 12 at 2 p.m. in the Children's Room. Orpheus illustrated the Kane Chronicles series of graphic novels by Rick Riordan, including *The Red Pyramid*, *The Throne of Fire*, and *The Serpent's Shadow*. He's currently working on the *Heroes of Olympus* series.

**Cuentos musicales para niños at Summer Mercado** Join Colombian artist Edgar Strova-Ávila as he shares musical stories from his bilingual book, *Doce cuentos musicales para niños*/Twelve bilingual tales for children. Saturday, June 25 at 2 p.m. and again at 4 p.m. at the Takoma Langley Crossroads Mercado at Anne St. between University Blvd. and Hammond Ave.



**Author Event!** Meet and greet Minh Lê, author of *The Boy Who Swam to America*. Read about a child with superhero-like abilities ... and the parents who are racing to keep up with her in this sweetly funny picture book about the blur of childhood, from the award-winning creators of *Drawn Together*. Book sale and signing will follow. Tuesday, June 28 at 7 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium.



## SummerQuest Begins!

Starting June 13, the SummerQuest reading program kicks off! 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.).

This summer's theme is Modern Mythology. In ancient days, people told stories of powerful beings in control of natural forces. Zeus and Thor were said to be the lords of Thunder; Poseidon was in charge of the Sea; Loki the master of Trickery and Magic. But what beings might be in charge of modern forces? Satellites and advertising and traffic may have incarnations that assist or trouble us. Find them!



# Reseña: *Antonio's Card / La Tarjeta de Antonio*, escrito por Rigoberto González, ilustrado por Cecilia Concepción Álvarez

por Verónica Rivera-Negrón

*Antonio's Card / La Tarjeta de Antonio* cuenta la historia de un niño que crea una postal para celebrar a su familia con motivo del Día de las madres. Pero cuando los niños en la escuela ven a Leslie, la compañera de su mamá, se burlan de ella por como camina y por su forma de vestir, diciendo que parece un hombre. Antonio descubre así que las palabras tienen el poder de herir. Es por esto que le mortifica la idea de que Leslie se presente en la escuela a ver la exhibición de las tarjetas.

Por un lado, este cuento explora la vergüenza que puede sentir un niño o niña por las burlas. Y por otro lado, también expone el valor de hablar de estos sentimientos negativos con alguien de confianza.

Hay una escena en que Antonio y mamá conversan sobre la forma de ser de Leslie. “¿Y cómo se viste y camina Leslie, Antonio?”, pregunta mamá. El niño piensa y concluye: “Creo que como Leslie”. Mamá concuerda con él diciendo: “Todos somos un poquito distintos el uno del otro. Eso es lo que nos hace a cada uno como individuo”.

Ella también le dice que él mismo debe tomar la decisión de si invitar a Leslie o no, dándole la oportunidad de procesar sus sentimientos y madurar. Antonio re-

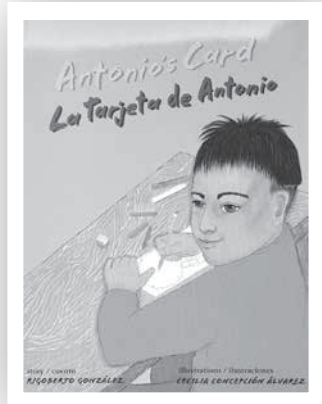
flexiona y se da cuenta del valor que trae Leslie a su vida—junto a ella lee, aprende palabras nuevas y se siente muy querido—así que decide invitarla a la exhibición.

Las ilustraciones, creadas por Cecilia Concepción Álvarez, celebran a las familias diversas, el amor y el valor de pasar tiempo juntos. La tarjeta que Antonio dibujó era de él con su mamá y Leslie

leyendo debajo de un árbol. Leslie, quien es artista visual, pintó la misma escena en un cuadro. La actividad de leer en familia es muy significativa para ambos.

El autor, Rigoberto González, celebra el bilingüismo con su escritura, logrando que el cuento funcione tanto en inglés como en español. En la versión en inglés, mamá le pregunta a Antonio como se deletrea “keys”, y luego pregunta: “¿Y en español?”. “L-L-A-V-E-S”, responde Antonio. Por su parte, en la versión en español, mamá pregunta cómo se deletrea “llaves”, y luego dice: “¿Y en inglés?”. A lo que el niño responde: “K-E-Y-S”. No importa la versión que escoja el lector, es evidente que esta es una familia bilingüe en la cual es importante aprender ambos idiomas.

Al leer el cuento ilustrado *Antonio's Card / La Tarjeta de Antonio*, podemos apreciar, desde la perspectiva de un niño, que el amor es amor y las familias son familias, sean como sean.



## RECREATION

■ From page 7

National Board Certified, Health & Wellness Coach.  
Takoma Park Community Center  
Auditorium  
7500 Maple Avenue  
55 & up  
Monday, 10–11:30 a.m.  
June 13  
\$5

## DANCE

Line Dance Tuesdays

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, 10:30–11:30 a.m.  
July 5-August 23  
\$5

**Zumba Gold** You can now register for both in-person and virtual Zumba Gold and attend whichever fits your schedule best



that week! Registration is required for in-person and online via zoom. For active older adults who are looking for a modified Zumba class that recreates the original moves you love at a lower intensity; the design of the class introduces easy-to-follow Zumba choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination. Instructor: Yesika Flores

Takoma Park Community Center  
**Two Options:** 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

55 & up  
Tuesdays, 8:45–9:45 a.m.  
Spring Session: through-June 21  
Summer Session: July 5-August 23  
\$5



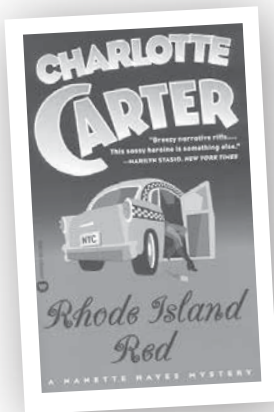
## FTPML Semi-Annual Book Sale a Success

The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library (FTPML) raised about \$2,000 at the semi-annual book sale in May! Thanks to the FTPML, the library can offer many special programs and events. A BIG thank you to all our neighbors and patrons who came out and bought books last month!

## FTPML Book Clubs, Explained

The FTPML sponsors two different book clubs. Tim Rahn provided the following write-up to explain the two groups. For more information, and to get news about group meetings, email [ftpmlbookgroup@gmail.com](mailto:ftpmlbookgroup@gmail.com).

- 1. Big Book Club (BBC):** The FTPML Big Book Club—sometimes called the Great Big Book Club—was founded in 2009 to discuss great works of literature from around the world written throughout history. After selecting a book, a scholar or expert on the author or the work presents a lecture about the book to BBC participants. Discussion of the book then continues over multiple sessions every other week. The BBC discusses a great book in the spring and fall of the year. Recent discussions have included *Vanity Fair* by William Makepeace Thackeray and *Palace Walk* by Naguib Mahfouz. In the past the BBC has read *War and Peace*, *Bleak House*, *Moby Dick*, *The Iliad*, *Les Misérables*, and the *Book of Genesis*.



Group has explored literature through historical and contemporary fiction, mysteries and science fiction, and graphic novels for more than 15 years. Authors have included Kenzaburo Oe, W. G. Sebald, Chinua Achebe, and Mo Yan, as well as Mark Twain, Graham Greene, Willa Cather, and Margaret Atwood. The FBG meets every other month for discussions.

Occasionally, books are selected by theme, for example, the group focused on more current contemporary fiction one year. It has also read novels with climate as a theme under the genre of Cli-Fi. The group recently read *Little Scarlet* by Walter Mosely, *The Haunting of Hill House* by Shirley Jackson, and *The Story of Lucy Gault* by William Trevor. The July 2022 selection is *Rhode Island Red* by Charlotte Carter.

Books for both the BBC and the FBG are available to borrow from the library before the discussion. Many of these titles are also available as e-books or audio books on the library's various streaming and e-book apps.

## Listen to this!

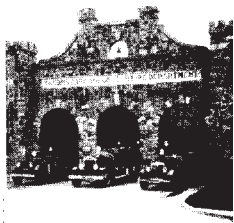
By Jessica Jones

*Getting Curious* with Jonathan Van Ness: Do you need more positivity and joy in your life? Jonathan Van Ness is a beacon of nonbinary sunshine in this world. Every week he posts a new episode that explores a topic about which he is



curious with an expert in the field – anything from Indigenous science to labor movements – you are sure to both learn something new and find something to smile about. There is some adult language. Available wherever you get your podcasts.





## THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

### Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of May 26, 2022, 29 people have died in fires compared to 23 in 2021.

### Hot vehicle deaths

As of May 26, 2022, 2 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.

### Summer Safety Tips

Summer officially begins on June 21. That will bring the HOT weather. Here some safety tips:

1. Stay hydrated.
  2. Drink plenty of fluids. (Water! Water! Water!)
  3. Wear lightweight, light-colored, and loose-fitting clothing.
  4. Pace yourself.
  5. Take frequent breaks.
- Be Safe! Stay Cool!

## At Last: Mid-Year 2022 Celebrations

By Claudine Schweber, Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee



It's time to celebrate. While the pandemic is not over, COVID-19 has calmed down. We can attend graduation events, weddings, family gatherings, and more. We can travel, meet new people, and enjoy life outside our homes. Can we also celebrate your readiness to deal with travel needs and thunderstorms?

### Travel

- Check the COVID-19 status at your destination and requirements, such as mask wearing and required proof of vaccination.
- Do not share your vaccination card online/or social media since this risks identity theft.
- Decide whether to wear masks even if not required, particularly in close contact areas such as airlines.
- Take an extra supply of medication, in case you are delayed, or it's lost in travel. Take a list of doctors, medications, and health insurance information. Give a copy to your out-of-area contact.

- Be prepared for a power outage: 1) make sure you have a working flashlight and extra working batteries nearby; 2) charge your cell phone now; and 3) do not light candles or use the stove for light/heat, which can lead to fires or gas inhalation.

- Make sure computer systems are backed up; shut down and unplug system before the storm.

- Be medicine ready. Get an extra supply of medication as soon as you hear about a forthcoming storm. Make a copy of the prescription and keep it in a safe and easily accessible place, along with a list of doctors, medications, health insurance information. Give a copy to your out-of-area contact.

Contact us at [tpepc@takomapark-md.gov](mailto:tpepc@takomapark-md.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](mailto:talk@takoma.com).

### Thunderstorms

- Update your communication plan including your contact list (especially your out-of-area contact), where to meet if you are separated; phone numbers for contact people; who contacts whom; and contact numbers for emergency personnel in your area.



### Additional Resources

- **Free rides for elderly (65+) for COVID-19 tests and vaccinations:** Montgomery County residents 65 and older or persons with disabilities can get free taxi service to/from vaccination and testing sites. Call Connect-A-Ride at 301-738-3252, 9-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Maryland Relay users dial 711. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/yd98mnwj>.
- **Free legitimate covid tests still available:** Free covid tests are available at various locations in Montgomery County. These include medical swab tests (PCR). Some locations require appointments. See dates and varied options at [montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/testing.html](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/testing.html). You can also get free rapid test kits (do it yourself) and N95 masks at Montgomery County libraries and at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. Check the library nearest you.
- **Safe disposal of unused medicines:** The Takoma Park Police Department offers 24/7 opportunity to drop medications in their lobby in the lower level of the community center. Open the main door and put inside the big green Med-Return Box unwanted/unused prescription and non-prescription drugs, patches, ointments, over-the-counter medications, vitamins, or pet medication. Note: You cannot leave liquids, inhalers, aerosol cans, regular household ointments/lotions, needles/sharps and/or thermometers.

## 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](https://takomaparkmd.gov/services/passports). Questions? Email [sofiav@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:sofiav@takomaparkmd.gov).



## Editor's note

### English:

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

### French:

Recherchez cette icône à côté des articles du bulletin que

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

### Spanish:

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

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

### Amharic:

ከታች ያለውን ደህን አዲስ ደረጃ ላይ መጽሐፍት አርባ ራስዎ ናቸው በሌሎች ቋንቋዎች በመስመር ላይ ማንበብ ይቻላል ትርጉሙን በመጠቀም በታሰማ ከተማ ውስጥ ያለውን በህገ ሃገር ድርጅት ጣቢያ ጠቅ ከደረጃ በኋላ አጽሱል አገኛላችሁ። ይመልከቱ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥግ ላይ ታስባላችሁ የአስተሳሰብ ደምረጡና ደምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልቋይ ሳትሆን።



# Let's Play Ball: Takoma Thunderbolts Arrive



More than 30 players make up this year's roster, coming mostly from the greater DC area but also from California, Florida, and Washington.

By Kevin Adler

The Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts kick off their 2022 home schedule on June 8, marking the return of the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League for a two-month season. Founded in 2000, the Thunderbolts bring fast-paced, high-energy baseball to Blair High School field. Tickets are just \$6 for adults, \$2 for children.

With no timeouts for TV commercials, the games move quickly. But between innings, there is always action as well. The Thunderbolts have contests for kids, such as running around the bases and popping water balloons; for the serious baseball fans, there are trivia contests. Local businesses donate prizes for raffles that are held at most games.

More than 30 players make up this year's roster, coming mostly from the greater DC area but also including collegians from California, Florida, and Washington. Coach Brock Hunter has recruited a team with speedy players, capable on defense and the basepaths. He looked for flexibility as well, and he calculates he has at least 22 "arms," including players who pitch

and play on the field when they're not on the mound. "There's no such thing as too much pitching," Hunter said, repeating a baseball maxim that's been true for more than a century.

For hitters, it's a switch to go to the plate with a wood bat, and a great test against quality competition. Gary Garrett Jr., an outfielder at Lander University, who's joining the Tbolts for the first time this year, said the challenge helps him concentrate. "I really like hitting with a wood bat more than metal bats. It makes you more selective," he said. "I try to get hard contact."

Players also benefit from mixing with players from other collegiate programs and sharing tips on hitting, pitching, workouts, and more. "The baseball culture [is such that] ... you can throw a bunch of random kids in the summer and hope they can get along," said Luke Rettig, a former player who starred for Lehigh University this year. "On my team, we had two players from Hawaii, and one of them was a catcher, Tyler Murray, who just clicked with me when I was on the mound."

Tickets can be purchased in advance at [www.tbolts.org](http://www.tbolts.org) or at the gate. The website also has bios of each player and links to podcasts, interviews, and live play-by-play of each game.

## Thunderbolts 2022 Season Home Schedule through July 13

Home games are at Montgomery Blair Baseball Stadium located at 51 East University Boulevard, Silver Spring, Maryland in the Four Corners Area  
Admission Prices: Adults - \$6.00;  
Children under 18 - \$2.00  
Youth baseball and softball players in uniform and children under the age of 5 get in FREE.  
Mon. - Sat. games start at 7 p.m.; Sunday games start at 6 p.m. Schedule subject to change. Check website, [www.tbolts.org](http://www.tbolts.org), for updates.

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT
Wednesday	June 8	Gaithersburg Giants
Friday	June 10	Metro SOCO Braves
Sunday	June 12	Olney Cropdusters
Wednesday	June 15	Bethesda Big Train
Saturday	June 25	Gaithersburg Giants
Sunday	June 26	Metro SOCO Braves
Tuesday	June 28	Bethesda Big Train
Thursday	June 30	Alexandria Aces
Saturday	July 2	DC Grays
Wednesday	July 6	Alexandria Aces
Friday	July 8	Gaithersburg Giants
Sunday	July 10	Metro SOCO Braves
Tuesday	July 12	DC Grays
Wednesday	July 13	Olney Cropdusters

## Docs In Progress to Host Summer Teen Filmmaking Workshop

In this one week fun and educational filmmaking workshop for ages 13-17, participants work in small teams to plan, shoot, and edit short documentary videos filmed in and around downtown Silver Spring, Maryland.

Participants will be provided access to and training with video cameras and editing equipment. Final projects will

be shown in a mini festival for family and friends on the last day of the camp. Videos will be uploaded to YouTube and may also be featured at the Community Stories Film Festival 2023. The camp takes place from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. each weekday.

### General Information

- We have a refrigerator for campers to store their lunches.
- We will also provide water and nut-free snacks.
- The safety of students and staff remains the top priority for Docs In Progress.
- Docs In Progress follows Montgomery County Public School safety measures ([www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/coronavirus/safety.aspx](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/coronavirus/safety.aspx)).

### Session 1:

Mon., July 18, 2022 - Fri., July 22, 2022

### Session 2:

Mon., August 1, 2022 - Fri., August 5, 2022

For more information and to register, visit: [www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-teen-filmmaking-workshop-session-1-tickets-313509524427?aff=ebdssbdsearch](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-teen-filmmaking-workshop-session-1-tickets-313509524427?aff=ebdssbdsearch)



## 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](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov).



## 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](http://takomaparkmd.gov/careers) regularly for up-to-date information. The most recent available positions are:

- **Community Development Manager - Housing**, responsible for implementation of the Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan, administration of the Division's rental housing licensing and registration programs, mediation of landlord tenant disputes, tenant association assistance, enforcement of local rent stabilization laws, grants administration, implementation of affordable housing programming, and oversight of a variety of contracts for services benefiting the community's low- and moderate-income residents.
- **Facilities Maintenance Supervisor**, responsible for keeping the mechanical, electrical, plumbing, heating, cooling, ventilation, and fire alarm systems of all City facilities in proper working condition. The position also oversees the day-to-day operations of the Building Maintenance division and Custodian division.



Applications, and details about these and other open positions can be found at [takomaparkmd.gov/careers](http://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.

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

**8th Annual Adult Play Day**  
Saturday, June 11, 6–9 p.m.  
7301 Maple Avenue

Let's Play America presents outdoor games and live music from GrooveQuest. See old friends and meet new ones. Suggested donation: \$20; for more information, visit [www.letsplayamerica.org](http://www.letsplayamerica.org).

**Trees of Takoma**  
On view through June 12  
Historic Takoma, 7328 Carroll Avenue  
A site-specific installation in Historic Takoma's front window by local artist Marty Ittner, *Trees of Takoma* features vintage photos of Takoma Park and offers a rare view of the City's rolling hills before development.

**Takoma Langley Crossroads Summer Mercado**  
Saturday, June 25, 1–6 p.m.  
Anne Street (between University Blvd. and Hammond Ave.)

Summer Mercado is an international celebration of food, crafts, and culture. Listen to live music on the festival mainstage while enjoying a variety of food and crafts from local businesses and vendors. Silver Branch Brewery will be pouring the craft brews. Don't miss this special day in Maryland's International Corridor.

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.docsinprogress.org/filmmakers).

# 12<sup>h</sup> Puppet Festival Skits & Bits

**Saturday June 25th 8am - 8pm**  
**At Rhizome DC**

located at 6950 Maple St NW, near the Takoma Park Metro station.

For more information please contact Rachel Gates at [RhizomePuppetLab@gmail.com](mailto:RhizomePuppetLab@gmail.com)

**Have IDEAS? Like to CREATE? Got a PUPPET?**

Information and Resources: Covid19  
[takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov)

Questions, Comments and Suggestions  
[askus@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:askus@takomaparkmd.gov)

#TogetherTKPK

# TAKOMA PARK ARTS

## CALLING ALL POETS!

We're seeking poets from the D.C. area for future poetry readings at the Takoma Park Community Center in the Takoma Park Arts series. Please use the link to apply, and the deadline is July 17. <https://bit.ly/3afJKsH>