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.

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 making 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 waterways.

The illustration above explains stormwater runoff graphically.

WHAT’S NEW?

FTPML Book Clubs Details, page 9
Biking News Details, page 4
City Election Info Details, page 2
City offices and facilities closed Juneteenth: June 20 Fourth of July: July 3 - 4

Look for this Icon throughout this issue See page 10

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.
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 irmani@takomaparkmd.gov.

The public can continue to view meetings as always: on City TV (RCN – 13, HD 1080; Comcast/Xfinity – 13, HD 897; 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.

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 jessie@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7287 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? Streettrees? 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!

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 election unless the nominated person files a declination with the Clerk of the City 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, jessie@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267. Additional information is also available at 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 $32,900. 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 (MMML); and reimbursement of certain other expenses, such as for travel.
STORMWATER
From page 1

The city has seen some flooding certainly on New Hampshire Avenue and the Sligo Creek area,” Braithwaite said. “Given climate change, we’ll be expecting heavier storms and larger quantities of water in the future.”

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 $2.52 per 500 square feet of impervious area. Impervious surfaces—like asphalt, concrete and rooftops—allow little to no stormwater infiltration into the ground.

“The credit is brand new and it was a component the council required when we changed the fee structure last year,” Braithwaite said. “Because the change increased the costs for some property owners the council was sensitive to that.”

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. The database uses information from a tri-annual LIDAR evaluation that takes aerial images of the impervious area.

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 20901. The application does require submission of documentation to verify the details of the facility and the amount of impervious area treated. For the first year of the program, applications can be submitted at any time from now through the billing cycle (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023). The credit will be paid as a refund directly to the property owner for the eligible portion of the stormwater fee.

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 stormwater utility fee is included in the County property tax bill, listed as Takoma Special.

The credit for tree planting is a one-year credit and the credit for all other measures covers a three-year period. There is a process for recertification of previously approved credit after the three-year period that includes verification that the measure is still in good working order.

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 stormwater management, or to access the program guidance documents and application, visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/public-works/stormwater-management-program.

Important City Phone Numbers

City Information ........................................... 301-891-7100
City Clerk ..................................................... 301-891-7267
Communications ....................................... 301-891-7286
Finance ....................................................... 301-891-7212
Housing & Community Development .............. 301-891-7119
Library ......................................................... 301-891-7259
Neighborhood Services ............................... 301-891-7113
Police ......................................................... 301-270-1100 / Emergency 911
Public Works .............................................. 301-891-7633
Recreation/Facilities Rental .......................... 301-891-7290

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

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.

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 cook top 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 and keep an eye on the City website (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 upcoming Takoma Park Arts exhibitions and a sidewalk poetry program where poems by residents are being stamped into new concrete sidewalks.

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

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

**Vintage Movie Night:**
Cold War Revisited

- **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.
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

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.

Just Teens Camp, please contact Haven Rhodd at havenr@takomaparkmd.gov.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Morning Addition & Afternoon Addition
Staff will escort participants to Takoma Park Elementary School and Pinney Branch Elementary School.

$140 per week

• Week of June 29-July 1: $84
• Week of July 5-July 8: $110

MARTIAL ARTS

Kung Fu for Kids

Bango 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
1 hour 30 min.–2:30 p.m.
July 9-August 27
Resident: $155 / Non-resident: $175
Uniform Fee: $70

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

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, 3:30–6:30 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

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Takoma Park News
**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

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9–11:30 a.m.

16 & up

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

**EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT**

The Big 6: Feel More Vibrant Now

Learn the six aspects of well-being 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,

**SPORTS**

**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**

Saturdays, 10:15–11:15 a.m.

July 16–September 3

Resident: $60 / Non-Resident: $70

Drop-in: $15

**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

**RESIDENT: $90 / NON-RESIDENT: $100**

**July 6-August 24**

**THURSDAYS, 7–8:30 P.M.**

**$3**

**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: Aline Cook

Takoma Park Community Center

7500 Maple Avenue

Dance Studio

**SUMMER CAMP**

Summer Camp

Campers 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 or 301-891-7290.

**HIV/AIDS**

RECREATION Page 9

**FREE**

Takoma Park News Page 7
My Two Dads

down in the library over a book called "Heather Has Two Mommies". It was one book in a series on our new shelf...

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 LGTBQ2A+ 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 bookshelf.

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 LGBTQ2A+ 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 LGBTQ2A+ identities, histories, and contributions. It's 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.

Computer Center hours are: Monday-Thursday 12 – 8 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.

Events-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. 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: 959-5178-9847 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.

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 Dophins 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-Avila 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 Blurf! 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. Today, we know that powerful beings have any number of incarnations that assist or trouble us. Find them!
Friends Book Group (FBG):

Big Book Club (BBC): email ftpmlbookgroup@gmail.com.

For more information, and to provided the following write-

different book clubs. Tim Rahn

FTPML Book Clubs, Explained

The FTPML sponsors two

domestic and international titles. The

and the BBC. The July 2022 selection is

and the Misérables, by Naguib Mahfouz. In the

spring and fall of the year. Recent dis-\n
evolved into a monthly group, withmultiple sessions every other week.

The BBC discusses a great book in the

and the Great

Books for both the BBC and the FBG

Rhode Island Red

by Charlotte Carter. Liam Trevor. The July 2022 selection is

and graphic novels for more

The Story of Lucy Gault

by Wil

Walter Mosely, as well as Mark Twain, Gra

n

while she is doing her homework. She

the children are looking for a modified Zumba class that

recreates the original moves you love at a lower

recreates the original moves you love at a lower

Zumba Gold

$5

-5

[Image 534x64 to 577x97] $5

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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!

Summer Storms
Have a plan in place to deal with thunder storms.

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 medications, 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.

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 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. You can also get free rapid test kits (do it yourself!) and N95 masks at Montgomery County libraries and at the Takoma Park Library. Check the library nearest you.

At Last: Mid-Year 2022 Celebrations
By Claudine Scheweber, 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.
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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.

Editor’s note
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.

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.

Questions? Email sofiav@takomaparkmd.gov.

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• 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.
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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.

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Let’s Play Ball: Takoma Thunderbolts Arrive

By Kevin Adler

The Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts kick off their 2022 season 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 from California, Florida, and Washington.

According to Coach Brock Hunt-er, 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 college programs and sharing tips on hitting, pitching, work-outs, 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 Retig, 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 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.

Doc’s 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.

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=ebdsbdst search

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, for updates.

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<th>DAY</th>
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June 2022

Takoma Park News Page 11
The City of Takoma Park recruiting includes all career staff, part time or temporary staff, interns, and more. The list of open positions changes frequently, so please check takomaparkmd.gov/careers regularly for up-to-date information. The most recent available positions are:

- 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.

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.

**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.

**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.

**ONGOING**

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

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

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

**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