The City of Takoma Park is pleased to announce the award of Community Partner (CP2) grants to reduce food insecurity for disadvantaged and underserved individuals and families residing in the City of Takoma Park. The CP2 grant program is designed to support programming that the City is unable to provide due to limited capacity. This grant program offers grantees an initial one-year contract with the opportunity for two optional renewal terms.

To mitigate the impact of the health pandemic on the community and support

Library Director's Column

Intersectional Women’s History Month at the Library

By Jessica Jones

March is Women's History Month, and in addition to recognizing the contributions of women this year, this is also an opportunity to reflect on all the different identities that intersect with womanhood.

Designing a Women’s History Month display was one of the last things I did at my previous library in Texas - a state that, while not a monolith, certainly has a vocal contingency with strong opinions about what makes someone a woman and how she should behave. It was a highlight of my

Information and Resources: Covid19

takomaparkmd.gov

Questions, Comments and Suggestions
askus@takomaparkmd.gov

#TogetherTKPK

Library Resources

PCR Testing – The City’s partnership with Montgomery County DHHS continues with PCR testing on Wednesdays at the Takoma Park Recreation Center from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. through the end of this month.

Test Kits and Masks – The library offers at-home rapid test kits and masks available for pickup during regular hours.

City Mask Mandate Remains In Effect

Although Montgomery County’s mask mandate expired on Monday, February 21, the City of Takoma Park will continue to adhere to City Manager Jamal Fox’s mask mandate in City buildings and facilities for all employees and visitors until further notice.

The mask mandate applies to all employees, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, and all visitors. All employees and visitors will wear a mask for all indoor public spaces while in City buildings and facilities such as:

- Community Center
- Police Department
- Takoma Park Maryland Library and Computer Center
- Public Works
- Recreation Center
- Heffner building

As more information becomes available, we will update our communications. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Donna Wright, Communications Manager, at donnaw@takomaparkmd.gov.
MEETINGS RETURN TO THE TAKOMA PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

City Council Meetings: The City Council will begin meeting in the Auditorium of the Takoma Park Community Center in March. Meetings will be 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 will continue to 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 301-891-7241 or email irma@takomaparkmd.gov.

The public can continue to view meetings as always: on City TV (RCN – 13, HD 1080; 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, we encourage providing 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, March 2, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 9, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 16, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 23, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.

THE CITY COUNCIL WILL NOT MEET ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30.

CITY BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 22, 7 p.m.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
Thursday, March 10, 7:30 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

COMMISSION ON LANDLORD-TENANT AFFAIRS
Wednesday, March 16, 6:30 p.m.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 24, 7 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 1, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 5, 6:30 p.m.

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 8, 7:30 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

POLICE CHIEF’S ADVISORY BOARD
Monday, March 21, 7 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 17, 7 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

SUSTAINABLE BANKING AND INVESTMENTS TASK FORCE
Monday, March 7, 7 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)
Monday, March 21, 7 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND COMMITTEE
Please check the City Calendar for information.

TREE COMMISSION
Wednesday, March 9, 7 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

YOUTH COUNCIL
Sunday, March 6, 3:30 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)
Sunday, March 20, 3:30 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)
Sunday, April 3, 3:30 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

ADA NOTICE
The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone with a disability who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations at a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing is invited to contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267 as early as possible.

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

On January 19, 2022, the City Council adopted City Council Meeting Rules and Procedures by Resolution 2022-2. The rules and procedures address meeting procedures, agendas, public comments, language interpretation, participation by Zoom or other conferencing tools, councilmember relations and communications with staff, councilmember relations with one another, and formation of council working groups.

Also, on January 19, the Council approved a budget amendment by Ordinance 2022-1 to provide additional compensation to City employees in recognition of their efforts during the last year. The amendment confirmed the earlier appropriation of $103,500 representing a 1.8% wage scale grid increase for all employees not affiliated with AFSCME Local 3399; appropriated $79,500 representing a 1.2% wage scale grid increase retroactive to July 1, 2021 applied to all employees not affiliated with AFSCME Local 3399; appropriated $169,500 representing a 3% wage scale grid increase retroactive to July 1, 2021 to be applied only to employees affiliated with AFSCME Local 3399; appropriated $272,000 (from American Rescue Plan Act funds) for a one-time lump sum payment in the amount of $3,400 to be made to eligible essential employees.

Resolution 2022-3 was adopted on January 26, 2022. The resolution authorized the City Manager to execute national settlement agreements with Jassen and the distributors in the Opioid Litigation and Maryland Subdivision Agreements. By entering into the agreements, the City may be able to receive direct funds or grants to combat opioid use.

At the City Council meeting on February 9, 2022, the Council approved FY22 Budget Amendment No. 3 by Ordinance 2022-2.

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. A complete election calendar is available on the City website. Contact Jessie Carpenter, jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267 for additional information.

Important City Department Phone Numbers

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

CityCouncilAction
Meet the New ARPA Manager

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) has brought an unprecedented level of funding to the City of Takoma Park for aid in recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, Takoma Park has created an ARPA Manager position to aid in the administration, oversight, tracking, and reporting of these federal funds.

Vernae Martin joined the City’s staff in January as the new ARPA Manager. Prior to working for the City, she worked for the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services in supervisory and senior advisor roles. Her career in the federal sector included working in the Food & Drug Administration, the Health Resources & Services Administration, the Administration for Children and Families, and detail assignments with the Departments of Labor and Housing & Urban Development. Vernae has a Master of Business Administration degree from Kennesaw State University, completed graduate studies in Urban & Regional Planning at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, and a B.A. from St. Olaf College.

In the role of ARPA Manager, Ms. Martin will guide, oversee, and report on the full use of ARPA funds. The ARPA Manager will report directly to the City Manager and work closely with the Deputy City Manager and Finance Director to design, develop, and implement performance and financial data reporting infrastructure.

Importantly, the ARPA Manager will be the liaison to the City Council and the public in presenting opportunities, findings, and recommendations to City leadership and City Council, monitoring and evaluating fund-usage to ensure it is having the intended impact, preparing reports, findings, conclusions, and recommendations for multiple stakeholders. Residents can reach Ms. Martin, ARPA Manager, at vernaem@takomaparkmd.gov.

Using the Takoma Park Project Directory

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

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

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

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

FOOD INSECURITY

From page 1

the rebuilding of a more community-centered food system, the City of Takoma Park dedicated $250,000 to address two significant areas (1) increase access to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps, and (2) provide secure, and distribute nutritious, quality food to disadvantaged and underserved individuals and families in the City. A competitive grant process resulted in the award of grants to four qualified organizations.

A grant of $35,000 was awarded to Community Health and Empowerment Through Education and Research (CHEER) to conduct outreach, education, and enrollment of eligible residents in the SNAP program. Grants of $20,000 each were awarded to three nonprofit organizations, Small Things Matter, FRESHFARMS Markets Inc., and Washington DC Meals on Wheels Inc. These groups will use this funding to distribute food to residents in need throughout the City.

Upcoming: Minor Master Plan Amendment Presentation on March 9!

Curious to learn more about what’s going on with the Minor Master Plan Amendment? Montgomery County Planning has been working on initial analysis of the area surrounding Maple Ave and the Washington Adventist University and Hospital Campuses. Join us at the City Council meeting on March 9 at 6:30 p.m. to hear the latest information about the project.


THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Apryl Motley
Assistant: Sean Gossard
www.takomaparkmd.gov
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Vernae Martin

Vernae Martin
BUILDING COMMUNITY

Community “Quality of Life” Grants Closing This Month

The application for the Community “Quality of Life” Grant program will close Thursday, March 11, 2022, at 5 p.m. Non-profit organizations and business associations serving Takoma Park residents should visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/grant-programs/community-grants to review the program guidelines and apply. The Community “Quality of Life” Grants program offers up to $10,000 in financial support for projects that provide greater access and opportunities for participation in the arts and sciences in Takoma Park.

Additionally, while not required, the City is encouraging applications for programs that connect arts and sciences with skills that promote workforce development and entrepreneurial programs for low-and-moderate income Takoma Park residents. Funding is available for projects taking place between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023. For more information and to apply, visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/grant-programs/community-grants and follow the links to the program page and application. If you would like more information, email inquiries to grants@takomaparkmd.gov.

Program Assists Low-Income Homeowners with Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

The City of Takoma Park and Habitat for Humanity are partnering to help two-income, qualified City homeowners convert an interior space in their homes into an additional living unit. This additional unit will be a separate and distinct living space in a home and can provide additional income when rented or a separate living space for family members.

Applications will open on March 14, 2022. The deadline to apply is April 4, 2022. The two final households will be chosen based on qualifications listed below and the scope of the work required to add the additional unit.

To be eligible, the homeowner must be:

• A resident of the City of Takoma Park
• Currently reside in the property to receive the additional unit
• Intend to live in one of the units
• Interested in an interior housing unit only
• Have a current homeowners insurance policy
• Income qualified (See chart below)

Applications will be available for download at www.habitatmm.org and for pick-up at the Takoma Park Police Station Lobby – 7500 Maple Avenue, 1st Floor, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912. For more information, contact the City at housing@takomaparkmd.gov or Sarah Reddinger at Habitat for Humanity at sarah.reddinger@habitatmm.org.

Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland: Women Build 2022

Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland is proud to be joining forces with the City of Takoma Park in providing safe, decent, and affordable housing in the local community. Women from your area are joining together in a multi-month effort to build homes for lower income, hardworking families in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties. Habitat Metro Maryland’s goal for Women Build 2022 is to bring at least 45 teams of 10 empowered women to work together to raise $225,000+ towards affordable housing. Want to get involved? Help HFFHM reach their goal by sponsoring a team, leading a team, or simply donating. For more information, please email womenbuild@habitatmm.org.

Table: Income Qualifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Maximum Income</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>7</td>
<td>$102,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$108,650</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

New Parking Meters Come to Carroll Ave

Keep an eye out for new parking meters on Carroll Ave! Three new parking meters will be installed in front of 6940 Carroll Ave, across from CVS, where previously there were none. Installation will occur as soon as ordered materials arrive. The new meters will help turnover parking spots more frequently in support of nearby businesses.

New Study of Bus Rapid Transit Begins on New Hampshire Avenue

Montgomery County just kicked off a study of Flash Bus Rapid Transit on New Hampshire Ave. Bus Rapid Transit, commonly referred to as BRT, uses routes with fewer stops, higher capacity buses, and often dedicated lanes to make commuting by bus faster and more efficient. The study will determine the street layout that will accommodate the BRT service, the location of stations, and the end points of the corridor. To learn more about the timeline for the study, as well as planned engagement events and other updates, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/projects/NewHampshireAve.
New Art Banner at Memorial Park Celebrates Women

A new art banner celebrating the power and diversity of women has been installed in Memorial Park. The banner features a painting titled *Late Summer* by Rockville artist Liliane Blom from her *Four Seasons* series highlighting women of different ages and ethnicities in settings representing the four seasons. The banner features a portrait of Baltimore R&B and gospel singer Alton Scarborough with a floral background.

“We’re proud to display this banner as a sign of the City’s commitment to ethnic, racial, and gender diversity,” Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith said. “Public art enlivens our community, and it can convey important messages about societal issues.”

The City’s Arts and Humanities Division purchased the banner with public art funds. It will be on display indefinitely at Memorial Park across the street from the Takoma Park Maryland Library at 101 Philadelphia Avenue.

The banner replaces a temporary banner of another painting from the same series titled *Mid Autumn* that featured a portrait of Nepalese-born Karuna Skariah, an educator and mother in Ellicott City. That banner was part of the #ArtHappensHere project, which celebrated the reopening of the local creative economy after pandemic-related closures.

Blom’s *Four Seasons* series showcases women of many ages, from 14 to 90 years old, including immigrants to Maryland from nine countries on five continents. You can see more of her artwork at lilianeblom.com.

“The circle is at the heart of this series with women as the champions of the environment at its center,” Blom said. “The series embodies the beauty and value of all ages and ethnic groups and is intended to combat stereotypes and ageism in both subtle and powerful ways.”

Free Takoma Park Arts Events at the Community Center

Please join us for free upcoming events at the Takoma Park Community Center at 7500 Maple Avenue. Many former events can be viewed on our YouTube channel at artsevents.takomaparkmd.gov. You can also get more info and sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at takomaparkmd.gov/arts.

Reverse Underground Railroad Lecture

Thursday, March 24, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

University of Maryland history professor Richard Bell will share the little-known and horrific history of the “Reverse Underground Railroad.” In the decades leading up to the Civil War, free Black children and adults in the North were kidnapped and sold into enslavement in the South.

Bell will talk about the history of the Reverse Underground Railroad, which he researched for his book titled *Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped Into Slavery and Their Astonishing Odyssey Home*. It’s the true story of five Black boys who were lured onto a ship in Philadelphia in 1825 with the promise of food and pay but were instead met with blindfolds, ropes, and knives. Over four long months, their kidnappers drove them overland into the Deep South to be sold as slaves. Determined to resist, the boys formed a tight brotherhood as they struggled to free themselves and find their way home.

Paper or Plastic? Art Installation at the Community Center

Crafted from plastic newspaper delivery bags and reused straws, a large art installation with an environmental message has been suspended from the ceiling in the Takoma Park Community Center.

The artwork by D.C. artist Jessica Beels critiques our careless consumption of disposable products that can cause serious environmental harms. She fused plastic newspaper delivery bags into 20 colorful flag-like grids that are connected with straightened metal clothes hangers and reused plastic straws.

“I am intrigued by the large destructive environmental impacts caused by our small decisions,” Beels said. “Newspaper bags and straws often aren’t recycled, and they can become microplastics in our oceans where they disrupt entire ecosystems.”

The artwork was purchased by the City’s Arts and Humanities Division using public art funds. The installation will be on display indefinitely in the atrium at the Community Center at 7500 Maple Avenue.

Beels creates sculptural work which usually addresses environmental themes. You can see more of her artwork at materialworld.studio.
RECREATION

TOTS

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

Instructor: Recreation Staff
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7:315 New Hampshire Ave
3-5 years
6 Week Session

$15

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Tuesday, March 22 – April 26


YOUTH

DANCE

Ballet & Stretch
This beginning ballet class focuses on stretching strategies using ballet foundations. Participants will learn ballet terminology, ballet technique, and balancing.

Instructor: Charonne Butler
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
5-11 years
Saturday, 12:30-1:15 p.m.

Resident: $66 / Non-resident: $75

Hip Hop Dance
Join the class that focuses on fitness and rhythm. Plus, you get to have lots of fun. These family friendly moves invite you to bring a friend to create, dance and move virtually anywhere.

Instructor: Charonne Butler
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
5-11 years
Saturday, 12:30-1:15 p.m.

Resident: $66 / Non-resident: $75

CAMP

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

Instructor: Sergio Quisquinay
Takoma Park Recreation Center
7:315 New Hampshire Avenue
Gymnasium
5-12 years
1 Week Session

$200

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

April 11-15

$200

REGISTRATION

Registration for School Year 2022–2023
Childcare will open on the following dates:
April 21 for families with a 2022 scholarship
April 28 for TP Residents
May 5 for Non-Residents

ADULT

ART

Painting Exploration
In this beginner class, participants are encouraged to try different materials and methods as well as to explore some of the basic elements of design in their work. Participants will try still life, landscape as well as painting from their imaginations. We will examine paintings by other artists and give helpful feedback to one another in a comfortable setting.

Grab a brush and come by the studio to explore painting! A nonrefundable $35 materials fee is due to the instructor on the first day of class.

Instructor: Caroline MacKinnon
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Art Studio
16 & Up

Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m.

March 11-April 29

Resident: $104 / Non-resident: $180

Materials Fee: $35

FITNESS

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

Instructor: Abel Asfale
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
16 & Up

Fridays, 6-7 p.m.

April 1–May 20

Resident: $60 / Non-resident: $70

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

Instructor: Tehseen Chettri

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

Takoma Park Community Center/Virtual
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
16 & Up

Wednesdays 6-7:15 p.m.

Thru March 30

Drop-in: $15

MEDITATION

Meditation Club Exploring Techniques
Meditation can have many benefits, such as growing a positive and grounded perspective, becoming more in-tune with one’s body and purpose or simply relieving stress. Also, there are numerous ways and techniques to approach meditation. The intent of this club is to provide a small group setting to meditate together to explore different techniques and hopefully to both provide the opportunity to those who practice and to introduce it to those curious. Ultimately, it is to help community members through
Introducing Staff from the Before and After the Bell Program: Cole Paff

This month we are spotlighting a staff member from our Before and After the Bell programs at the Takoma Park Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue. Cole Paff started with the Recreation Center this past September for the 2021–2022 school year. Cole is the Assistant Director of the program and majored in English and minored in Visual Studies at the Bi-Co Consortium in Pennsylvania. His favorite position in childcare has been as an art teacher, so he’s really enjoyed getting to flex his artistic muscles while at the Before and After the Bell program.

Tell us a little bit about your background as it relates to childcare.

Cole: I grew up babysitting but have professionally worked in childcare and education for about seven years now.

What is the best part about working with kids?

Cole: I love the kids’ creativity and their unpredictability. You never know what they might do or say next.

What are some of the projects and/or events you’ve done with the Before and After the Bell programs?

Cole: Some of my favorite activities we’ve done are making lava lamps, a mini-golf course from boxes, and lots of paper crafts. Recently we spent a couple days building “Stuffy City,” a cardboard box extravaganza for the program’s stuffed animals.

Do you anticipate seeing your program growing in the future?

Cole: I think the program will certainly grow, back to its old capacity. This year has been an experiment in adaptability and flexibility, so I foresee the program continuing to change as our response to the pandemic changes.

Do you have any hobbies?

Cole: I roller skate, practice aikido, and spend a lot of down time on my sewing projects.

Have you learned anything from the kids?

Cole: The clearest lesson I’ve learned is that patience, space, and time can heal almost any wounds.

Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts Founder Dick O’Connor Named to Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League Hall of Fame

By Neal Lavon

Takoma Park resident Dick O’Connor, founder and president of the Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts, has been named to the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League (CRCBL) Hall of Fame. He joined Hunter Renfroe, Luke Adams, and Rebecca Crowley in the Class of 2020 inductees.

O’Connor was honored in a ceremony at Shirley Povich Field on November 7 of last year for his unique and lasting contribution to the growth of summer collegiate baseball. A plaque with his likeness was placed alongside other CRCBL Hall of Fame honorees at the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball Hall of Fame Pavilion at Povich Field.

Numerous Thunderbolts have gone on to hold positions in professional baseball at all levels. Former major league pitchers Brett Cecil (Blue Jays, Cardinals), Jonathan Papelbon (Red Sox, Phillies, Nationals) and Zach Clark (Orioles) all suited up for the T-Bolts. The current Cleveland Guardians general manager, Mike Chernoff, was a Thunderbolts infielder in 2001.

Besides his countless volunteer hours with the Thunderbolts, Dick O’Connor has also organized yearly summer camps and free baseball clinics for area youth. He has also served as the head coach of the Takoma Park Rec League for many years.

Dick O’Connor has been an active member of the Takoma Park community, serving as a member of the Takoma Park Recreation Commission, the Takoma Park Recycling Committee, and the Takoma Park Community Center's Board of Directors.

O’Connor’s contributions to the Takoma Park community have made him the perfect candidate for the CRCBL Hall of Fame. His dedication to the sport of baseball and the community has earned him this well-deserved recognition.

For more information on the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League, visit their website at www.crcbl.org.

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RECREATION

March 2022 Takoma Park News

RECREATION

From page 6

meditation. Instructor: Issa Al-Aweel
Takoma Park Community Center
Lilac Room
7500 Maple Avenue
18 & Up
Sundays, 3-4 p.m.
April 3-May 22
Free

Moonlight Qi Gong II
Moonlight Qi Gong enhances the quiet, gentle, peaceful Yin side of our energy in the winter months, balancing the warm, active, bright sunlight Yang energy. These six beautiful movement forms strengthen and align the body and focus the mind, reducing stress and tension while bringing the body and mind together in the breath. No experience necessary. Instructor: Patrick Smith
Virtual
18 & Up
Tuesdays, 7:30-8 p.m.
Current Session: Thru March 15
Spring Session: April 4-May 24
Resident: $50 / Non-Resident: $70
Drop-In: $15

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Writing Life Stories.
Do you want to share important life experiences through your writing? Our stories are part of what makes us human. Whether you are a lifelong writer or a beginner, this class is for you. I will help you to jump start your memories, organize your ideas and edit your work. We use the book Writing the Memoir, by Judith Barrington. Bring a notebook to each class and be ready to have fun! Instructor: Barbara Rosenblatt
Virtual
18 & Up
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.
April 6-May 25
Resident: $80 / Non-resident: $100

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
18 & Up
Mondays & Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.
March 2-June 29
Free with Recreation Membership

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: Charmone Butler
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
16 & Up
Saturdays, 10:15-11:15 a.m.
April 2-May 28
Resident: $60 / Non-Resident: $70
Drop-In: $15

See the Spring-Summer 2022 City Guide inserted in this newsletter for a larger selection of our classes!

SPORTS

Adult Volleyball Open Gym
Join the Takoma Park Volleyball Club! Grab a friend or make a new one on the court. The club will meet weekly at the Takoma Park Recreation Center for pickup games of volleyball. Registration is required to participate, and all skill levels are welcome. Email tspportstakomaparkmd.gov for more information.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Gymnasium
18 & up
6 Week Session
Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
April 13-May 18
$20

Takoma Park Adult Softball League
Dust off your glove and warm up your swing, the Takoma Park Adult Softball League is back! This is a fun and exciting co-ed recreational program for competitive adults of all skill levels. Gather some friends to enjoy the spring season on the softball field! Team registrations must contain a minimum of 50% Takoma Park residents to qualify for the Resident Team entry fee. Roster limit 15. Top 4 teams advance to the playoffs. No Games on Mother’s Day.

Takoma Park Adult Softball League
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
16 & Up
Sundays, 3–4 p.m.
18 & Up
7500 Maple Avenue
Lilac Room
Takoma Park Community Center

RECREATION ▶ Page 11
In Conversation with Verónica Rivera-Negrón (she/her/ella), New Children and Youth Services Manager

By Anne LeVeque

Last month, Library Director Jessica Jones gave a brief introduction to our new Children and Youth Services Manager, Verónica Rivera-Negrón. We recently sat down with Verónica and talked about her vision for the library and its youngest patrons.

What was your favorite book as a child?

VRN: I loved stories growing up! My grandmother would tell me and my brother tales of Juan Bobo, who is a folkloric character in Puerto Rico. There are some books now that have Juan Bobo, but when I was a child, it was an oral tradition. He was a silly character, who would get in trouble often. My grandmother gave me a love for stories and storytelling that has shaped my career. I’m very curious about the way we tell stories, sometimes through words on paper, sometimes with images, and sometimes with our bodies.

Who are your favorite authors—children’s books, YA books, adult books?

VRN: I love Juana Martínez-Neal, she is an author and illustrator. She has a beautiful picture book called Alma y cómo obtuvo su nombre. It’s about a girl with a very long name, and at the beginning she doesn’t like it. By the end, she has learned the story and meaning of her name, and she learns to appreciate it. I also like Maya Motayne, who writes young adult fantasy. Her novels Nocturna and Oviina are Latinx-inspired fantasy books. My favorite adult author is Gabriel García Márquez. I love to re-read his work, and I even have illustrated versions of his books. While in graduate school in Austin, Texas, I visited the Harry Ransom Center and saw some of Marquez’s original materials there.

Collection development is a big piece of your role here. What are your goals in both maintaining and growing our children’s and YA collections? Have you noticed particular gaps in the collection? Particular strengths?

VRN: It’s a very strong collection. Karen, Kati, and Dave have done an amazing job finding books that are new but also keeping the well-loved ones in the collection. All the authors I’ve thought about are here! Moving forward, we want to continue making sure we have a wide range of books in the collection where our diverse communities can see themselves represented. Also the Spanish collections for children, young adults, and adults are really good. And I will be in charge of further developing them so that’s very exciting for me as a native Spanish-speaker!

CALendAR

VRN: I'm guessing you've had time to look at some of the programs TPML has had in the past — seasonal programs, author programs, etc. What do you think you'll continue, and what new programs do you think you might offer?

VRN: Circle Time is a big program, well-loved both in Spanish and English. It's for an age group that is often underserved — preschoolers and babies. So that will continue. The Comix Jam and Scribbler’s Cabal will continue because they are a combination of illustration and storytelling, which is very engaging for kids.

I’d love to continue bringing authors and illustrators here. I haven’t learned much about how the seasonal programs were run, but we’ll likely continue those. I am interested in bringing more performing arts events to this space so that could be part of the seasonal programs and beyond. In terms of new programs, we’ll ramp the SSL hours for teens to be more active. We want something that makes sense for them, but also something that will help us. We want teens to feel like they belong in this space. We don’t have a lot of teens coming into the library, so this could help.

I also want to have programs that are multilingual and promote multiculturalism. So, whether it’s Spanish, American Sign Language, Amharic, or any other language, I want to make sure it’s represented.

Obviously, COVID-19 has had an enormous impact on programming. We have Zoom Circle Time and Zoom Spanish Circle Time, and Dave’s programs are now hybrid with in-person and Zoom access. Some organizations have made a conscious decision to keep virtual access as an option for their programming. How do you envision things going forward?

VRN: Hybrid is the way to go. Having a combination of in-person and online programming.

NEW MANAGER

Listen to this!

By Kati Nolfi, Children’s Librarian

Podcasting is famously not for everyone. And yet lots of successful podcasts concern themselves with discussion about images! Listen to Sassy is really risky, though. Gen-Xers Tara, Pam, and Dave dissect ‘90s nostalgia by going to the achingly cool source: Sassy Magazine of 1988–1994. The podcast has a companion site and Instagram where you can take the vintage quizzes (How Romantic Are You?) and gaze upon glorious scans from the original magazine. Listeners are invited to call in and leave messages about important teenage stuff like making retainers with candy or paperclips. These additional features and community make the time period come alive. Recapture your (or someone else’s) youth and Listen to Sassy!

Friends Book Group March Selection

By Tim Rahn

The Story of Lucy Gault, a novella by William Trevor, will be discussed by the Friends Book Group on Thursday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room of the Community Center.

The Story of Lucy Gault begins in 1921 when the Irish revolution that led to the founding of the Irish Republic rages in the countryside. After a young man is shot by the father of an Anglo-Irish family, the parents decide they must leave Ireland to avoid more confrontation.

As they prepare to leave, Lucy, their young daughter and only child, runs away, determined to stay at the idyllic family home. When she cannot be found, she is presumed dead, and her parents leave to wander Europe. For the next seven decades, Lucy’s life plays out against feelings of remorse and guilt. Tim Adams, in his 2002 Observer review of the novel, wrote that Trevor “is the modern master of the life never quite lived, his fiction ever aware of the spaces between his characters, the silence that always threatens them.”

Trevor was a celebrated short story writer. The Story of Lucy Gault, which was published in 2002, was short-listed for the Booker Prize. Copies of The Story of Lucy Gault are available to borrow from the library, and as an audiobook from Hoolap, the library’s digital streaming service.
time there to hear the display described by patrons as “inclusive” and to know that some of our marginalized patrons felt seen.

The display was fairly extensive, and it portrayed women who fall under all kinds of intersecting identities—BIPOC, LGBTQA2S (trans women are women, and we should cherish and protect them)—women without children, mothers (biological, adoptive, stepmothers, and found/family), aunts, grandmothers, sisters, daughters, mentors, artists and creators, women in STEM, community leaders, and more.

One of the things I love most about Takoma Park and our library here, in particular, is that it champions diversity and inclusivity all year long by thoughtfully selecting and acquiring books that are created by and for a spectrum of identities.

To that end, we have a wealth of women/womyn/authors from the history of modern literature that are worth exploring this March:

• George Eliot – a special shout-out to the women who have had to use a traditionally masculine name to find a publisher. We have several of Mary Ann Evans’s works on our shelves.
• Mary Shelley – Frankenstein is widely considered to be the first science fiction novel by an author from any gender (also, a goth icon)
• Gabriela Mistral – the first woman from Latin America to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1945. Her poems are timeless.
• Octavia Butler – a trailblazer in speculative fiction and recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship. Butler often wrote about the intersection of Black and female identities and experiences.

And not that you need anyone’s permission, but it’s also okay to defy classification and reject conventional labels. We have authors who do that, too. • Akwaeke Emegi – Emegi uses they/him/their pronouns and describes themselves as living in liminal spaces. Their books Freshwater and Pet both explore living outside of the gender binary in colonized spaces.
• Rivers Solomon – Solomon also uses they/them/their pronouns and writes about “life in the margins, where they are much at home.” Sorrowsland is their newest book on our shelves and not to be missed.

Of course, the names here do not represent an exhaustive list; come browse our shelves and explore the depth of our collection, chat with the staff at the desk, and email us with readers’ advisory questions. We want to connect you with books that can reflect both the world and yourself. Happy reading, friends!

Books to Go Continues!

See page 13 of the Spring/Summer City Guide inserted with this issue.

NEW MANAGER

From page 8

programming makes sense for the staff and for the community. Working with children and young adults, it’s important to do stuff in person for their social and emotional development. But we want to make sure patrons have choices.

In any organization, you’re going to have “we’ve always done this” as a default position with some people. How are you going to balance the desire for continuity with innovation?

VRN: In terms of maintaining balance between continuity and innovation, I am someone who respects tradition and also values creativity. If it’s meaningful for the community to maintain a program, we will maintain it. If we will serve our children and young adults better by being innovative and creative, then that’s what we’ll do. At the end of the day, I’m here to serve the community – especially our young people – so that will always take precedence in any decision-making. I am very excited to be here! I look forward to supporting everything that has been happening and to creating new opportunities for engagement.

Five Questions for Takoma Park Muralist Nancy Caralyn Illman

“I am a healer with a diverse toolbox; and acting is my newest healing modality,” said Takoma Park resident Nancy Illman about her motivation for pursuing her interest in theater.

A homeowner in Takoma Park since 2013, Illman’s artistic endeavors can be seen throughout the City. In 2017, she transformed the stairs leading from the municipal parking lot to Takoma Park Elementary School, now known as the Uplifting Staircase. Illman lives in the neighborhood commonly known as PEN where she shares a home with husband, Paul, their Labrador retriever, Sugar; twin tabby cats, Hercules, and Claudio; and whenever they have time to return for a visit, three grown sons, Max, Sam, and Isaac.

After being a theater mom for over 20 years, this year she is brand new “empty nester.” “Theater is what I choose to fill the new emptiness in my otherwise full life,” Illman said. “For so long, a big part of my identity was as caregiver for my children. All three of them are actors, and they urged me to audition for a show.” One of them even coached her for her audition.

What drew Illman to theater?

“What drew Illman to theater? There is nothing more appealing to me than creative collaboration right now as an antidote to pandemic isolation fatigue,” she said. “When I learned that Takoma Park now has its own professional theatre company and that by auditioning for Incognito, I might have an opportunity to collaborate with and perform for members of this community, I was overjoyed.”

Illman has experienced a range of emotions while preparing for performances taking place later this month. “I’ve come to appreciate that by revealing the inside of characters’ minds and hearts, theatre creates opportunities for empathy that may not be as easily accessible in real life relationships,” Illman observed. “It’s healing for me to inhabit the role of actor because as a girl, I was discouraged from pursuing acting.”

In response to the play: “Bring tissues, and seriously, be ready to laugh and cry over your face mask.”

Six years ago, we introduced a series of “quick interviews” in this newsletter to help residents learn a little more about City staff and their neighbors. Here is Illman’s take on our five questions.

Favorite Place/Activity in Takoma Park:

There are so many public spaces I love in Takoma Park from Sligo creek to the gazebo to the retaining walls I’ve covered with murals, but my dining room is currently my favorite spot in town. It has functioned in turn as a pop-up boutique, a classroom, an art studio, a rehearsal space, and a place to share meals, celebrate, and connect. I look forward to putting it to full use again once it is safe to do so.

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Passport Services

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

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 du Centre 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 icono 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:

Be Aware and Be Prepared: Travel, Testing, and Transportation

By Claudine Schweber, Emergency Preparedness Committee

As we move out of intense COVID-19 limitations, we may begin to travel, and then discover we’ve had contact with a COVID-19 positive person and need a rapid test. Moreover, elderly or disabled persons may now feel more comfortable going to the doctor and need transportation help. What do we need to do to be ready for action?

U.S. Travel

The increase in vaccinations and boosters has led to an increased desire to travel. Does this mean traveling as we did in 2019? No. COVID-19 is still part of our lives and environments. The CDC points out:

• Travel only when you are up to date with vaccines and booster shots and have quarantined sufficiently if you had COVID-19.
• Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth is required in indoor areas of public transportation (e.g., trains, airplanes) and indoors in U.S. transportation hubs (e.g., airports)
• Take extra masks.
• Check the Covid situation at your destination and requirements, such as mask wearing, required proof of vaccination.
• If you had close contact with a person with COVID-19, determine whether you need to quarantine; if not, test within at least five days after your last close contact. Make sure your test result is negative, and you remain without symptoms before traveling.

Transportation for Elderly or Disabled People

• Connect A Ride offers Transportation options for elderly or disabled people. Call 301-738-3232 for information Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
• Maryland Relay users dial 711. They offer spoken language interpretation. Say the language you would like to speak and wait a few minutes for an interpreter to join the call.
• If you reach the voice mail, leave a message stating your language and phone number; a staff member will call back. Reference: accessjca.org/connect-a-ride

Contact us at 301-8891-7126 or tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov. Join us once a month for Dear Beatrice Pre pared on Talk of Takoma, WOWD/LP Radio 94.3, Sundays 1–3.

Note: As of mid-February, the CCC is “closed indefinitely.”

• There are many online offers for rapid tests. Be Careful! For example, one test provider, the Center for Covid Control (CCC), which has over a hundred pop up testing locations in U.S. as well as home test kits, has been sued by attorneys general in several states (Reference: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9sboZ3AVGM)
ILLMAN
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Best Thing about Living in Takoma Park:
I adore our community’s Living and Giving in Takoma Park Facebook group. The group is such a beautiful way to encourage all of us to share abundance, reduce waste, and revel in shared experience. I live in perpetual gratitude for so many opportunities to embrace kindness, generous helpfulness, and joy.

On Your Desk Right Now:
The current star of my desk is Pepper, a sassy jasper parrot perched on a rose quartz base just to the left of my computer screen. Whenever I look at Pepper, he reminds me that setting and maintaining boundaries is fundamental to self-love.

What You Do in Your ‘ Spare Time’:
When I am not working, I fill my time with as much play as possible: dressing up, cooking, hiking, enjoying outdoor tennis, playing chamber music, visiting Hillwood mansion and gardens, attending theater and concerts, taking handstand selfies, and posing on social media.

FITNESS
Enhance Your Fitness
A great total body workout using low-impact aerobics movement and gentle resistance training, this class focuses on increasing strength, balance, and flexibility through stretching, breathing, core training and proper posture alignment using standing and seated exercises including warm-up and cool down routines. Instructor: Adriene Buist
Virtual 55 & up Tuesdays, 8:45–9:45 a.m.
April 5–June 21 $5

Zumba Gold
Designed for active older adults looking for a modified Zumba class that recreates the original moves they love at a lower intensity, this class introduces easy-to-follow Zumba choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination. Register for the Wednesday in-person class or the Friday in-person class but not both. Choose the class that best fits your schedule. Instructor: Yesika Flores
Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue Dance Room 55 & up Wednesdays, 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
April 6–June 22 $5

Foundational Fitness 55+
The program is designed to enhance strength; decrease fall risks; increase physical fitness level; improve cardiovascular capacity and range of motion; and enhance general sense of well-being. Class utilizes a high back chair; light hand weights and or a resistance tube. Equipment is not provided. Have a towel and water bottle nearby. Instructor: Michael Williams
Virtual 55 & up Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10–11 a.m.
April 5–June 23 $5

T’ai Chi Strength
Begin with meditation and stretching followed by T’ai Chi forms and balance exercises to build strength and endurance. End with cool down exercises. Instructor: Master Robert Thompson
Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue Dance Room 55 & up Tuesdays, 12–1 p.m.
April 5–June 21 $5

Yoga for 55 plus
This yoga class is about the gentle flow of yoga poses modified to an individual’s needs depending on their balance level. Improve balance, flexibility, posture, and stamina and energize mind and spirit for better health and well-being. No experience needed. Students must bring their own yoga mats. Instructor: Santa Lama
Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue Gymnasium 55 & up Wednesdays, 10–11 a.m.
April 8–June 7 $5

Recreation
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Day or Memorial Day weekend. Email TPsports@takomaparkmd.gov for more information.
Various Field Locations 16 & up
8 Week Season Sundays, 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m.
April 3–June 12
Resident Team Fee: $645 / Non-resident Team Fee: $745

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

DROP-IN
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55+

DANCE
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DANCE
Line Dance
Line Dancing is great physical and mental exercise. Strengthening of bones and muscles, weight loss, increased stamina and flexibility, and stress reduction are just some of the benefits of dancing. Instructor: Yesika Flores
Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue Dance Room 55 & up Tuesdays, 12–2 p.m.
March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28 Free

Basketball Open Play
Don’t worry about the cold weather and join your neighbors and friends for basketball practice. Drop-in. No registration required. A free fitness pass is required.
Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Avenue Gymnasium 55 & up Thursdays, 12–2 p.m.
April 7–June 9 Free

DANCE
Line Dance
Line Dancing is great physical and mental exercise. Strengthening of bones and muscles, weight loss, increased stamina and flexibility, and stress reduction are just some of the benefits of dancing. Learn how exercise can be fun with music. No experience necessary. Instructor: Barbara Brown
Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue Dance Room 55 & up Tuesdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
April 5–June 21 $5

Zumba Gold
Designed for active older adults looking for a modified Zumba class that recreates the original moves they love at a lower intensity, this class introduces easy-to-follow Zumba choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination. Register for the Wednesday in-person class or the Friday in-person class but not both. Choose the class that best fits your schedule. Instructor: Yesika Flores
Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue Dance Room 55 & up Wednesdays, 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
April 6–June 22 $5

Dance Room
Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue Dance Room 55 & up Tuesdays, 12–2 p.m.
March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28 Free

Yoga for Healthy Aging
This class helps build strength, endurance, flexibility, and range-of-motion and improve posture and balance, and aids in preventing/reversing bone loss related to osteoporosis using seated, standing, and floor poses and breathing and relaxation techniques. Students need to provide their own yoga mat, a yoga belt (or equivalent, e.g., a necktie), a tennis ball, preferably a yoga block and blanket. Instructor: Carol Memrey
Takoma Park Community Center 7900 Maple Avenue Dance Room 55 & up Fridays, 12–1 p.m.
April 8–June 17 $5

SPECIAL EVENTS
Eggsstravaganza
Due to COVID-19, the Takoma Park Recreation Department is offering an alternative to our traditional Egg Hunt. We will have the return of “Eggsstravaganza.” Eggsstravaganza will provide a fun outing for families, and you may visit a place you have never been to before. Get your baskets and map ready to solve the clues. Determine the local businesses based on the clue, stop by to pick up an egg filled with treats. This rain-or shine event will take place on April 15 & 16 from 1–4 p.m. To wrap up Eggsstravaganza on Saturday, April 16 there will be a performance at the Community Center. After the event, eggs can be returned to the drop box in the lobby of the Police Department for reuse next year. For more information visit takomaparkmd.gov/recreation.
2–12 years Free
Scavenger Hunt
Friday & Saturday, April 15 & 16 1–4 p.m.
Entertainment at the Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue Saturday, April 16 Time TBD

Fitness Expo
The Takoma Park Recreation Department staff is preparing for our annual Fitness Expo. This year’s expo will take place on the grounds of the Takoma Park Recreation Center. Join us for an exciting and knowledgable day that will feature fitness demonstrations and presentations from local community health and wellness organizations. For more information contact Vincent Cain at 201-891-7289 or vincent@takomaparkmd.gov.
Takoma Park Recreation Center Outdoors 7315 New Hampshire Avenue All Ages Saturday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
April 9 Free

Parks and Recreation
March 2022 Takoma Park News

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Best Advice Your Ever Got (from who):
You are perfect and wholly deserving of love, just exactly as you are. I think I may have heard this advice first from Mister Rogers, but the Muses practically shouted it. When I’m in my creative groove, I receive it constantly – from my higher self, my inner wisdom, my spirit guides, while guiding others through spiritual hypnosis. It is advice meant for each one of us, and I am on a mission to see that it reaches every person I meet.

You can see Illman make her professional acting debut in Incognito, along with fellow Takoma resident Seth Rosenke, Gifty Ampsonem, and Sam Lunay. Tickets are available at www.encoretheaterco.org.

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Takoma Park News

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Takoma Park News
Are You Struggling to Keep Up With Your Mortgage Payments or Other Housing Costs Due to Financial Hardships?

Don’t Wait! Contact a HUD-approved Housing Counseling Agency for assistance.

HIP: 301-699-3835; hiphomes.org
LEDCC: 1-866-977 -5332; www.ledcmetro.org

A HUD-certified housing counselor will review all mortgage relief options based on your specific circumstances and can assist you with finding a solution that works best for you. Counselors will additionally help you understand whether you are eligible for the Maryland Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) program and assist with the application process (dhcd.maryland.gov/Residents/Pages/HomeownerAssistanceFund.aspx#Resources). Getting help early in the process can mean the difference between saving your home and losing it to foreclosure.

CITY CAREERS

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

- Summer Camp staff and leadership positions available for the City’s recreational camps for children and teens.
- Economic Development Intern to assist in advancing the City’s economic, business, and workforce development goals.
- Urban Forest Intern for a 6-month, full-time internship opportunity to work with the Takoma Park Department of Public Works Urban Forestry program.
- Childcare Director responsible for planning, leading, and conducting recreation activities for before and after-care programs at both the Community Center and the Recreation Center for the remainder of the school year. 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

The Virtual TKPK5K Is Coming Back!

The Takoma Park Safe Routes to School Virtual 5K challenge is right around the corner! After 14 years, the TKPK5K has become a community tradition, where people of all ages, abilities, and running backgrounds are able to run or walk to support our five local area schools. For the month of May, participants will be able to run or walk on their own time and favorite routes, while tracking their progress virtually. More registration information will be coming soon! Visit the “Takoma Park Safe Routes to School 5K” webpage on the city’s website for more.

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

Tuesday, March 1 – 1:30 p.m. Virtual

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

Register at us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAud-yoJbTHdexb5kF1960mg3N0bfbsM6T.

Takoma Park Youth Council Winter Clothes Drive

Through March 6

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

GardenComm & National Garden Bureau Book Party

Thursday, March 24, 7 p.m. Virtual

Get the dirt on four exciting gardening books for Spring 2022 with moderator Kathy Jentz, podcaster host of GardenDC. Sean and Allison McManus will discuss their book First-Time Gardener: Growing Plants and Flowers. Christy Wilhelm of Gardenerd reveals insider tips on selecting the best compact fruit trees, berries, vines, and plants for your climate with Grow Your Own Mini Fruit Garden. Raffaele Di Lallo of Ohio Tropics shares some of the problem-solving secrets behind his book Houseplant Warrior: Adaptive gardening expert Toni Gattone shows how to make your favorite hobby easier as you age in The Lifelong Gardener, now in its second printing. Meet and be inspired by these authors and join a 15-minute breakout to Q&A with the author of your choice. To attend, register at bit.ly/MarchBookParty. For more information, email info@mgb.org.

Encore Theater Company Presents Incognito

March 25 – 27

Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center

Encore Theater Company, a professional nonprofit theater based in the Takoma Park community, will kick of its 2022 season with a regional premiere of Incognito by Nick Payne, an intimate play that explores themes of memory and identity and showcases the talents of four local actors playing a combined 21 characters and telling three interwoven stories. The cast features two Takoma Park residents, Nancy Illman and Seth Rosenke, in addition to Gifty Amsopem of Upper Marlboro, MD, and Sam Lunay of Arnold, MD. For more information, visit encoretheaterco.org/event/incognito.

75th Anniversary Gala Concert and Celebration

Montgomery Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, March 27, 3 p.m.

Sligo Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 7100 Carroll Ave

Join the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra for a gala concert and celebration in commemoration of its 75th anniversary. For more information, visit msomd.org/upcoming.

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

Community Stories Film Festival 2022

Docs In Progress

March 11-13

Virtual

This festival is all virtual, free, and open to everyone. It features local stories by local MD, DC, and Northern Virginia filmmakers. All films will be accessible to stream at your convenience starting March 8 at 5 p.m. Q&As with the filmmakers are scheduled for March 11-13. This event is in part funded by the NEH, Maryland Humanities, Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, and the Maryland Department of Commerce.

Check out the festival website: https://22communitystories.eventive.org/welcome