

**MARCH  
2022**

# TAKOMAPARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 61, No. 3 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

## WHAT'S NEW?

### New Before & After the Bell Staff

Details, page 7

### Community Quality of Life Grants Application Closing

Details, page 4

### Maryland Homeowners Assistance Fund

Details, page 12

### Trash/Recycling Collection

No changes this month



Look for this icon  
throughout this  
issue

See page 10



Volunteers at CHEER, Small Matters (left), and FRESHFARMS (above) provide valuable support towards reducing food insecurity in the City.



## Food Insecurity Reduction Grants Awarded

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

GRANTS □ Page 3

### 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 womxnhood.

Designing a Women's History Month



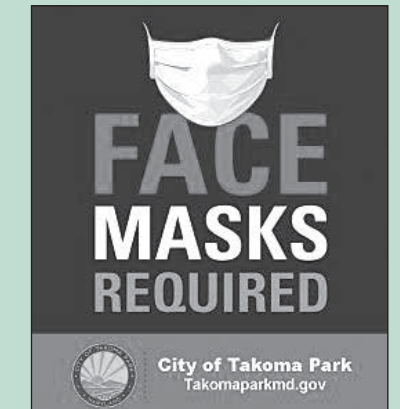
display was one of the last things I did at my previous library in Texas - a state that, while not a monolith, certainly has a vocal contingency with strong opinions about what makes someone a woman and how she should behave. It was a highlight of my

WOMEN'S HISTORY □ Page 9

Information and Resources: Covid19  
**takomaparkmd.gov**

Questions, Comments and Suggestions  
**askus@takomaparkmd.gov**

**#TogetherTKPK**



## 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.

### COVID-19 Community 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** – Our library offers at-home rapid test kits and masks available for pickup during regular hours.

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

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## Inside



Meet the  
New ARPA  
Manager  
Page 3



See the  
New Art  
Installation  
Page 5



Join the  
City's Staff  
Page 12

# DOCKET

## Official City Government Meetings

### 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 301-891-7214 or email [IrmaN@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:IrmaN@takomaparkmd.gov).

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

**Other Public Meetings:** City Boards and Committees have the option of continuing to meet on Zoom or may resume in-person meetings. However, 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](mailto: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](mailto:jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7267 as early as possible.

## City Council Action

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

On **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](mailto: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







# 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 pandemic. As such, Takoma Park has created an ARPA Manager position to aid in the administration, oversight, tracking, and reporting of these federal funds.

Verna 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 & Families, and detail assignments with the Departments of Labor and Housing & Urban Development. Verna 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.



Verna Martin

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](mailto:vernaem@takomaparkmd.gov).

## 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!

To learn more about the Minor Master Plan, visit [takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/planning-and-community-development/minor-master-plan](http://takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/planning-and-community-development/minor-master-plan).



### THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Apryl Motley  
Assistant: Sean Gossard  
[www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov)  
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## 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](http://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory)

GOVERNMENT	SERVICES	INITIATIVES	NEWS
Boards, Commissions & Committees City Clerk City Council City Manager City TV Communications	Bids & Contracts Business & Multifamily Recycling Careers/Jobs Community Partners and Resources Curbside Collection	Project Directory (All City Projects) Arts and Humanities Census 2020 – Everyone Counts in Montgomery County Community Conversations	City Election Information City Council & Mayor Blog City Manager & Staff Blog News & News Alerts Forever Young

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.

Project Directory			
Project Title & Link	Project Classification	Target Completion Date	Ward
Library Renovation Project	Public Infrastructure - Buildings	2017 - TBD	Citywide
Table: City of Takoma Park project directory listing all of the major projects currently being worked on or planned.			
Completed Projects			
Project Title & Link	Project Classification	Completion Date	Ward
Washington Adventist Hospital	Regional Project	2019	Citywide
Dorothy's Woods	Public Infrastructure - Property	2018	3
Police Chief Search	Recruitment	2017-12	Citywide

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.

### STREETLIGHT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

#### About the Streetlight Replacement Project

The goal of the streetlight replacement project is to improve the quality of street lighting in Takoma Park. Benefits of the project include energy savings, cost savings, reduced light pollution, improved reliability, and an improvement in overall quality of street light. On October 24, 2018, the City Council approved staff recommendation to replace the existing streetlight with LED fixtures through the PEPCO conversion program.

#### Current Project Status

Lighting Maintenance Inc. a subcontractor for PEPCO began the street light replacement the second week of December, 2018 and completed the work in July, 2019.

Residents who wish to request additional shielding on the new streetlights in the case of light intrusion into bedroom windows can send an email with the request, address, and your contact information to: [publicworks@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:publicworks@takomaparkmd.gov). Please include the pole number for the fixture and nearest address.

#### Project Background

The discussion concerning the benefits of replacing the City's streetlights began about ten years ago. The discussion has included staff presentations to City Council in April, 2015, March, 2016 and October, 2016. At the October 2016 meeting, City Council authorized staff to pursue the conversion of existing streetlights to LED technology via Resolution 2016-41. The Council Resolution directed staff and PEPCO to ensure that all replacement fixtures be International

#### Streetlight Replacement Details

##### Project Info & Timeline

- Completion date: July, 2019
- Takoma Park's role in Project: Lead
- Departments Involved: Public Works

##### Budget & Funding Source

The City currently pays approximately \$233,000 annually for street light electricity and fixture maintenance. \$180,000 is paid to Pepco for maintenance and operation, taxes, and fees; \$53,000 is paid to WGL for the electricity use (100% Wind).

Based on Pepco's calculations, the reduction in energy use and maintenance costs will result in a savings of approximately \$50,000 to \$100,000 annually. The overall cost of the program is expected to be \$372,000 and the City anticipates a \$260,000 rebate from the Empower Maryland Program. Based on the projected annual savings, the program will pay for itself in less than two years and those savings from reduced energy use and maintenance costs will carry through for the life of the fixtures.

##### Links & Notes

- June 2019, LED Light Replacement Presentation at MML Conference
- April 2015, City Council Work Session Cover-sheet
- September 2016 City Council Work Session Cover-sheet
- City Council Resolution 2016-41
- Map of test fixture locations

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, FRESH-FARMS Markets Inc., and Washington DC Meals on Wheels Inc. These groups will use this funding to distribute food to residents in needs throughout the City.



# 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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)

- Willing to comply with all County permitting and City licensing requirements

Household Size	Maximum Income
1	\$57,650
2	\$65,850
3	\$74,100
4	\$82,300
5	\$88,900
6	\$95,500
7	\$102,100
8	\$108,650

### Income Qualifications

Applications will be available for download at [www.habitatmm.org](http://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](mailto:housing@takomaparkmd.gov) or Sarah Reddinger at Habitat for Humanity at [sarah.reddinger@habitatmm.org](mailto: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 HFHMM reach their goal by sponsoring a team, leading a team, or simply donating. For more information, please email [womenbuild@habitatmm.org](mailto:womenbuild@habitatmm.org).



## 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](http://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](http://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."

"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."

At right, Artist Liliane Blom stands beside a new banner in Memorial Park featuring her painting *Late Summer*.



## **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



*Paper or Plastic? Art Installation*

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](http://materialworld.studio).

## **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](http://artsevents.takomaparkmd.gov). You also can get more info and sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at [takomaparkmd.gov/arts](http://takomaparkmd.gov/arts).

1839] *Anti-Slavery Almanac.* 19



### **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.



# RECREATION

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



## 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  
7315 New Hampshire Ave  
3–5 years  
6 Week Session  
Saturdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.  
April 23-May 28  
\$55

## 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  
Saturdays, 12:30–1:15 p.m.  
April 9-June 4  
Resident: \$65 / Non-resident: \$75

#### Hip-Hop Dance

Join this 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  
Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.  
April 9-June 4  
Resident: \$65 / 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 Quisquiny

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
7315 New Hampshire Avenue  
Gymnasium  
5–12 years  
1 Week Session  
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.  
April 11-April 15  
\$200

### Spring Break Camp

Come experience the great outdoors with Takoma Park Recreation. Join us for a week of hikes, crafts, games, and fun. Find out why the sun is so important; water is essential to all living creatures and how trees play an important part of daily life!

Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Avenue  
5–12 years  
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.  
April 11-15  
Resident: \$140 / Non-resident: \$160

## EXTENDED CARE

### 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



### Fun Days

Fun Days are offered on specific days when Montgomery County Public Schools are not in session. The program is designed to provide recreational activities for children enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade. Through structured, socially distanced activities, crafts and presenters, there are opportunities for socializing, unwinding, and releasing energy. Participants must bring masks, a lunch, snacks and labeled water bottle. Activities and performers are subject to change.

Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Avenue  
5–12 years  
Friday, April 1  
Monday, May 2  
8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.  
Resident: \$50 / Non-resident: \$60

## SPORTS

### Basketball Skills

This class will teach the fundamentals of the sport. Good Sportsmanship will be emphasized. Participants will be provided with excellent coaching. You will learn proper dribbling, shooting and defensive techniques. Instructor: Greg Harris

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
Gymnasium  
7315 New Hampshire Ave  
6–12 years  
6 Week Session  
Saturdays, 12–1 p.m.  
April 23-May 28  
\$70

### Golf

This course is designed for the novice golfer. This class will focus on the fundamentals of the sport including the equipment, some rules, etiquette, and the history of the sport. Supplies and equipment will be provided for participants. Families are encouraged to register together. Instructor: Fred Harlee

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
Outdoors  
7315 New Hampshire Ave  
6 & up  
5 Week Session  
Saturdays, 11–11:50 a.m.  
April 23-May 21  
\$50

## TEENS

### DRAMA

#### Dungeons & Dragons

They creep through the twilight, quiet as shadows muttering a language long forgotten, a language only spoken by ghosts. Use your imagination and storytelling ability in this classic fantasy role-playing game. Roll dice to cast spells and battle monsters. Creativity and cooperation help the group “survive.” Instructor: Dave Burbank

Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Avenue  
Auditorium  
12–18 years  
Thursdays, 4–6 p.m.  
March 3-April 7  
Resident: \$55 / Non-resident: \$65

## EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

### College Essay Prep

Crafting the right college essay can often make the difference of admission into your dream institution. It can provide just the edge you might need to achieve your goals. Spend some time to get an upper hand in the college essay process by focusing on the preplanning period to ensure your essay is the right one for you. This class does not cover the writing, review, and editing of your essay. Join George Washington's very own Professor Ellen Zavian to get help with planning your college essay. This is a virtual class.

Virtual  
Grades 10–12  
6 Week Session  
Wednesdays, 4–5 p.m.  
March 16-April 27  
(No Class: 4/13)  
Resident: \$70 / Non-resident: \$80

### Power Hour

Take advantage of our homework power hour focusing on academic support. We are the perfect balance of academics and fun. Students are given quiet time to complete homework or to read. Staff is available to assist and can review the completed assignments. Registration is not required.

Takoma Park Community Center  
Teen Lounge  
7500 Maple Avenue  
Grades 6–12  
Ongoing Monday-Thursday  
3:30–4:30 p.m.  
Free

## ADULT

### ART

#### Painting Exploration

In this beginner class, participants are encouraged to try different materials and methods as well as 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: \$140 / Non-resident: \$160  
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 Asafere

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 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

# RECREATION

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



## 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 5-May 24  
Resident: \$25 / Non-resident: \$35



### Zumba

Zumba is a fitness program that combines Latin and international music with dance moves. Zumba routines incorporate interval training, alternating fast and slow rhythms to help improve cardiovascular fitness. No equipment needed for this class. Instructor: Charonne Butler

Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Avenue  
Dance Studio  
16 & Up  
Saturdays, 10:15–11:15 a.m.  
April 2-May 28  
Resident: \$60 / 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: \$90 / 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  
16 & up  
Mondays & Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.  
March 2-June 29  
Free with Recreation Membership

## 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 [tpsports@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tpsports@takomaparkmd.gov) for more information.

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
7315 New Hampshire Avenue  
Gymnasium  
16 & 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

RECREATION □ Page 11

## 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.

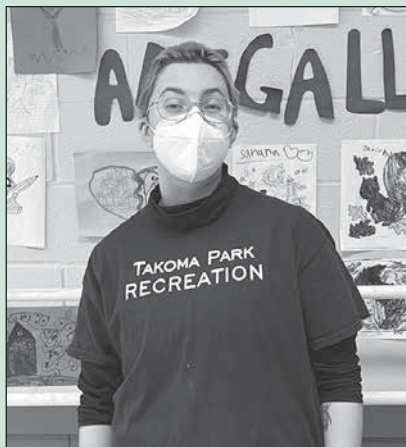
**Cole:** I grew up babysitting but have professionally worked in childcare and education for about seven years now.

### 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



Cole Paff

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 Adkins, 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



Dick O'Connor

in the community. He has advocated for the values of community service and good sportsmanship in area youth baseball. Dick has also served in leadership positions in the Takoma Park community including Historic Takoma, co-chair of the Takoma Park Recycling Committee, and chair of the City's Commemoration Commission.

Dick has worked as an environmental trial attorney for more than three decades and lives with his wife, Laurie, on Maple Avenue.





## 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 *Oculita* 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 Márquez'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!



Verónica Rivera-Negrón

### 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 Comics 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 revamp 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 multilingualism. 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

### Hours and Calendar

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

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

## CALENDAR

We're continuing to offer many great library programs – weekly and monthly – via Zoom. To participate, 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. To register, go to [www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryprograms](https://www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryprograms). Please refresh your browser first to ensure you get the most updated information. Also, please make sure you register for the "Zoom" version of these programs.

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

**Zoom Circle Time:** Join Ms. Kati every Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. for an online Circle Time via Zoom. To participate, go to <https://zoom.us>, and click on "Join a Meeting." Then put in this Meeting ID: 995-4901-8825 and Meeting Password: 178851.

At Circle Time, we sing songs, have fun with fingerplays and rhymes, and do lots of dancing and movement exercises. We read one book in the middle of the program.

**Zoom Comics Jam:** Once a month, generally on the second Wednesday at 4 p.m. Please register for Zoom Comics Jam at [www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents](https://www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents); we'll send an email with the next date to all registered. The Meeting ID for Zoom Comics Jam is 734-913-6285. No Meeting Password needed.

**Zoom Spanish Circle Time:** Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. To participate in Zoom Spanish Circle Time, go to: <https://zoom.us>. Then put in Meeting ID: 959-5178-5847 and Meeting Password: 793725.

**Zoom Scribbler's Cabal:** Fridays at 4 p.m. Meeting ID is 734-913-6285 (same as Comics Jam), no Meeting Password needed.

**Looking ahead:** Celebrate El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day) with Takoma Park Maryland Library! Join us on Saturday, April 30, for an in-person, outdoor performance by the Latin American theatre group Teatro La Bolsa. More details coming soon!

## Listen to this!

By Kati Nolfi, Children's Librarian

Podcasting is famously not a visual medium. 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!

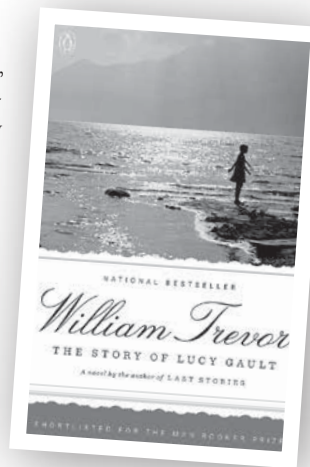
## Friends Book Group March Selection

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.

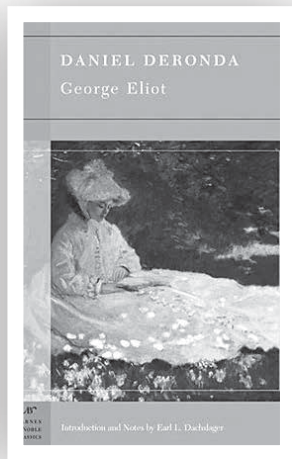
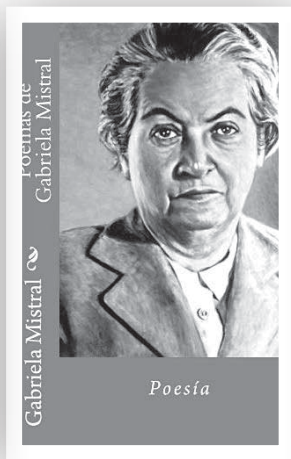
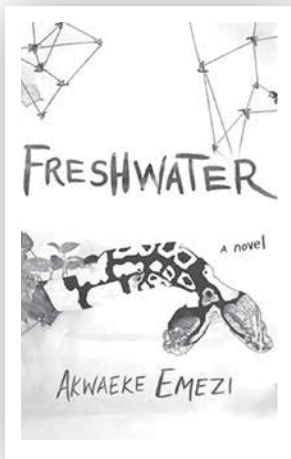
As they prepare to leave, Lucy, their young daughter and only child, runs away, determined to stay at the idyllic family home. When she cannot be found,



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 Hoopla, the library's digital streaming service.





## WOMEN'S HISTORY

■ From page 1

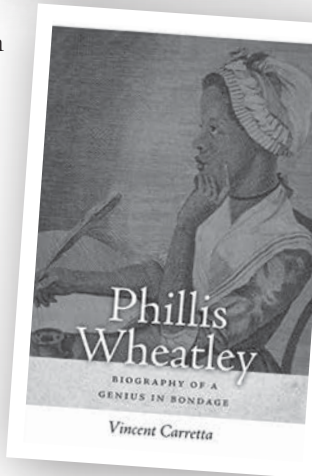
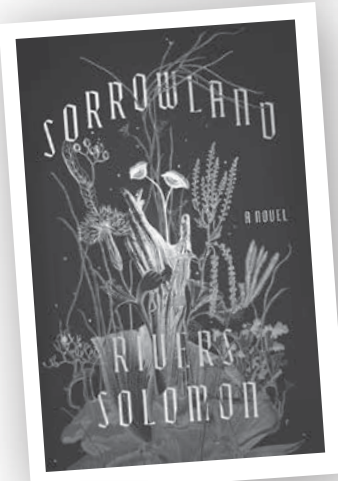
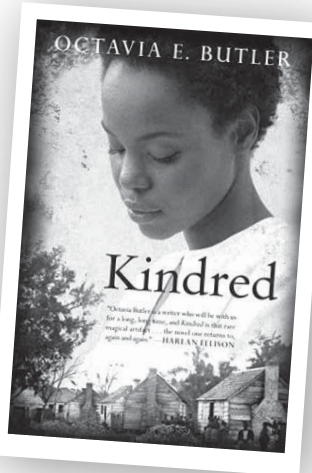
time there to hear the display described by patrons as “inclusive” and to know that some of our marginalized patrons felt seen.

The display was fairly extensive, and it portrayed women who fall under all kinds of intersecting identities: BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S (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/womxn authors from the history of modern literature that are worth exploring this March:

- Phillis Wheatley Peters – the first African-American author of a published book of poetry. Wheatley was the name of her enslavers, so many scholars are now including her married name.
- 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 Emezi – Emezi uses they/them/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.” *Sorrowland* 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!

## 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 theatre 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? “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.”



Nancy Illman

She believes audiences will have a similar response to the play: “Bring tissues, and seriously, be ready to laugh and cry all 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:

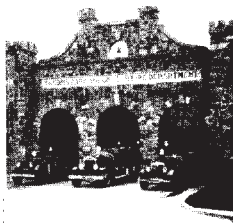
There are so many public spaces I love in Takoma Park from Sligo creek to the gazebo to the retaining walls I’ve covered with murals, but my dining room is currently my favorite spot in town. It has functioned in turn as a pop-up boutique, a classroom, an art studio, a rehearsal space, and a place to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

ILLMAN □ Page 11

## Books to Go Continues!

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





## THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

### Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of February 28, 2022, 5 people have died in fires compared to 17 in 2021.

### Hot vehicle deaths

As of February 28, 2022, 0 children have died in hot vehicles across the country. It's a fact. Deaths can

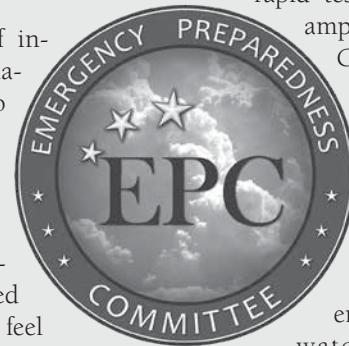


happen in the cold weather, so make sure when you leave your vehicle, everyone goes with you. And lock your vehicle.

## 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?



- 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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9sboZ3AVGM))

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

- In addition, social media has also been used to promote COVID-19 treatments with no evidence they work. Check [www.coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov) for reputable information, and if you think there's fraud, report it to [reportfraud.ftc.gov](https://reportfraud.ftc.gov).
- Obtain tests from major hospitals or state and local health departments and agencies. Free antigen rapid self-tests and N95 masks are distributed at the Montgomery County libraries including the Takoma Park Maryland Library. Reference: [www.montgomery-county.md.gov/covid19/testing/rapid-tests.html](https://www.montgomery-county.md.gov/covid19/testing/rapid-tests.html)

### Transportation for Elderly or Disabled People

- Connect A Ride offers Transportation options for elderly or disabled people. Call 301-738-3252 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: [access-jca.org/connect-a-ride](https://access-jca.org/connect-a-ride)

### 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.
- Plus, wear an N95 or KN95 mask that covers your nose, mouth, and chin. Reference: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html)

### Getting a Reliable COVID-19 Test

What could you do if you discovered you were in close contact with someone who later tested positive for COVID-19?



## 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 [sofiav@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:sofiav@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](https://takomaparkmd.gov/services/passports). For additional information, visit [takomaparkmd.gov/services/passports](https://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 de la ville de Takoma Park. Après avoir cliqué sur le lien de l'article, regardez dans le coin supérieur droit de la page Web à côté de la barre de navigation, puis sélectionnez la langue souhaitée à l'aide du menu déroulant.

### Spanish:

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

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

### Amharic:

ከታች ያለውን ደህን ክፍል ይፈልጉ የዚህ መጽሔት አገልግሎት ለሌሎች ቋንቋዎች በመስመር ላይ ማንበብ ይቻላል ትርጉሙን በመጠቀም በታችኛው ከተማ ውስጥ ያለውን ባህሪ የፓርክ ድር ጣቢያ ጠቀስዎትኝ በሰላም ስለሆነ ስንገናኝ ላይ ይመልከቱ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥንግ ላይ ታስባላችሁ የአሰሳ አዋጅን ይምረጡና ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልቋይ ሳሉን።



RECREATION

■ From page 7

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.\*

55+

DROP-IN

**Bingo**  
Come try your luck and win a prize! This is drop-in; no registration required. Host: Paula Lisowski  
  
Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Avenue  
Senior 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 is 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  
**Wednesdays**, 10:30–11:30 a.m.  
April 6-June 22  
\$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



**Zumba Gold (New Hybrid)**  
This class is offered on a hybrid basis. You can attend the class in-person or via Zoom on the same day at the same time. Choose the option that is best for you. Registration is required for in-person and on-line via zoom. Only register for one option, in-person or online via zoom, but not both. 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.  
  
Instructor: Yesika Flores  
  
Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Avenue  
Dance Room (in-person) or Zoom (virtual)  
55 & up  
Fridays, 10–11 a.m.  
April 8-June 17  
\$5



FITNESS

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



**Tai Chi Strength**  
Begin with meditation and stretching followed by Tai 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: Sarita Lama  
  
Takoma Park Recreation Center  
7500 Maple Avenue  
Gymnasium  
55 & up  
Tuesdays, 12–1 p.m.  
April 5-June 7  
\$5

**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 Mermey  
  
Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Avenue  
Dance Room  
55 & up  
Fridays, 12–1 p.m.  
April 8-June 17  
\$5

SPECIAL EVENTS

**Eggstravaganza**  
Due to COVID-19, the Takoma Park Recreation Department is offering an alternative to our traditional Egg Hunt. We will have the return of “Eggstravaganza.” Eggstravaganza 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 Eggstravaganza 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 knowledgeable day that will include fitness demonstrations and presentations from local community health and wellness organizations. For more information contact Vincent Cain at 301-891-7289 or vincentc@takomaparkmd.gov.  
  
Takoma Park Recreation Center  
Outdoors  
7315 New Hampshire Avenue  
All Ages  
Saturday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
April 9  
Free

ILLMAN

■ From page 9

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 hand-stand selfies, and posting on social media.

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 shout it. When I’m in my creative groove, I receive it constantly – from my higher self, my in-

ner 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 Amponsem, and Sam Lunay. Tickets are available at [www.encoretheaterco.org](http://www.encoretheaterco.org).



## CITY CAREERS

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

- **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](http://takomaparkmd.gov/careers).



The City of Takoma Park is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. We strive to be a diverse workforce that is representative of the residents we serve and the area in which we live. We are dedicated to creating an inclusive environment where employees of diverse backgrounds can thrive and make a positive impact in the services we provide.



## 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](http://hiphomes.org)**

**LEDC: 1-866-977-5332; [www.ledcmetro.org](http://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](http://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.

## 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.



## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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

Tuesday, March 1, 12 – 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 and Q & A on invasive plant species, 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/j/8tHdes1b5kKf90mx3N0bq9sM6T](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8tHdes1b5kKf90mx3N0bq9sM6T).

### 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, podcast host of GardenDC. Sean and Allison McManus will discuss their book *First-Time Gardener: Growing Plants and Flowers*. Christy Wilhelmi 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](https://bit.ly/MarchBookParty). For more information, email [info@ngb.org](mailto:info@ngb.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 off 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 Amponsem of Upper Marlboro, MD, and Sam Lunay of Arnold, MD. For more information, visit [encoretheaterco.org/event/incognito](http://encoretheaterco.org/event/incognito).

### 75th Anniversary Gala Concert and Celebration

Montgomery Symphony Orchestra  
Sunday, March 27, 3 p.m.  
Sligo Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 7700 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](http://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](http://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>